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THE

CHELTENHAM GUIDE:

OR,

USEFUL COMPANION,

IN A

JOURNEY OF HEALTH AND PLEASURE

TO THE

CHELTENHAM SPA.

BEING AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF

THE TOWN:
ITS ANTIQUITY, SITUATION, AIR AND PRODUCE.
THE CHURCH, HOSPITAL, AND SCHOOLS.

THE SPA:
ITS VIRTUES AND EFFECTS.
PUBLIC WALKS, AND ROOMS.
THE ENVIRONS, RIDES, VIEWS,

AND

INTENDED IMPROVEMENTS

IN AND ABOUT THE TOWN.

To which is subjoined an ACCOUNT of the VEHICLES of CONVEYANCE to and from CHELTENHAM, General and Cross-post Days, &c. &c.

W. Butler

LONDON

Printed: and Sold by J. RIDLEY, St. James's Street; J. JOHNSON, St. Paul's Church-yard; D. PRINCE, Oxford; S. HARWARD in Gloucester; and W. FORTY, at the Well, in Cheltenham. 1781.

[Price Eighteen Pence.]

E.H

(Cheltenham)
Butler

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1858

O HEALTH!

BEST COMPANION OF TEMPERANCE AND VIRTUE:

MOST VENERABLE OF THE POWERS OF HEAVEN!

WITH THEE MAY THE REMNANT OF MY LIFE BE PASSED;

NOR DO THOU REFUSE TO BLESS ME WITH THY RESIDENCE:

FOR IN THY PRESENCE,

THOU PARENT OF HAPPINESS!

EVERY JOY BUDS FORTH AND FLOURISHES:

IN THY PRESENCE

BLOOMS THE FAIR SPRING OF

P L E A S U R E;

AND WITHOUT THEE NO MAN IS HAPPY.

other gratification from it, than the conſciouſneſs of a kind intention to inform, to pleaſe, and to benefit his readers. Amongſt whom, in a peculiar manner, he reſpectfully begs leave to dedicate this little treatiſe to your Lordſhip; ſincerely wiſhing it may obtain the approbation of all, whoſe caſes and conſtitution render them proper candidates for the bleſſings of the CHELTENHAM SPA.

He has the honour to be,

with great eſteem,

my LORD,

your LORDSHIP's moſt obedient

humble Servant,

* * * *

July, 1780.

INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH the ſalutary virtues of the CHELTENHAM SPRING have long been experienced by the ſickly, and inveſtigated by the ſagacious in the medical art; yet, as no circumſtantial account of them has ever appeared, excepting here and there in detached paſſages of larger works, not eaſily referred to; their merits have not been ſo announced to the community, as to procure them any adequate tribute of public fame.

OF late, indeed, they have obtained a degree of ſanction and celebrity more ſuitable to their real importance, under the care and immediate eye of ſome gentlemen now in the Town; for whom the writer has too great a regard, to wound their modeſty, by labouring at any com-

 mendation.

mendation. Their own works, like thoſe of their predeceſſors on the ſame line, will praiſe them in future times, far beyond the humble ſcope of his words to expreſs: and they have their reward, he is perſuaded, in viewing the fair progreſs of improvement extended, and public utility daily increaſing by means of their humane and ſpirited endeavours.

But, as efforts of this philanthropic nature, for the moſt part, make their way but ſlowly, and by almoſt imperceptible advances to the general notice, without collateral aids; hence ſomething of the kind here attempted ſeemed requiſite to facilitate the good deſign.

And, if the intelligence reſulting from the Cheltenham Guide ſhall be fortunate enough to promote that deſign, by opening a new ſphere of enjoyment to the alert and healthy; another aſylum for the comfort of the ſick and ſorrowful; and thereby eſtabliſh the honour of thoſe excellent waters, which are ſo happily calculated

lated by Divine Providence to ſecure a general eſteem, the writer will not deem the few days of leiſure loſt, which were ſpent in the preſent compoſition.

He thinks it, however, previouſly neceſſary to acquaint the reader, that he has conſtantly, without ſcruple, availed himſelf of ſuch lights as were neareſt at hand, in the remarks of others, who have heretofore viſited the Town and neighbourhood. The judicious and candid will neither envy nor cenſure him for the humble labour of ſuch a plagiariſm,—if it may be ſo called; and all other readers, of what claſs ſoever, are hereby inhibited, as conſecrated ground, the Arcadian haunts of Cheltenham.

THE

CHELTENHAM GUIDE.

SECTION I.

CHELTENHAM, ITS ANTIQUITY.

THE ancient Town of CHELTENHAM in Glouceſterſhire derives its name from the brook or little river *Chelt*, which, riſing in the adjacent pariſh of Dowdeſwell, runs near this Town on the ſouth ſide, and diſcharges itſelf into the Severn at Wainload's Bridge. It lies in the Hundred of the ſame name, within ten miles north-eaſt from the city of Glouceſter, fifteen north of Cirenceſter, nine ſouth of Tewkſbury, and about a hundred miles almoſt due weſt from London; from all which places there are turnpike roads leading to this Town. The pariſh is ſaid to have conſiſted formerly of divers manors, which may all have borne the general appellation of "The MANOR OF CHELTENHAM;" ſince from ancient records it appears, that ſeveral proprietors have been poſſeſſed of it nearly at the ſame time.

DOOMSDAY

DOOMSDAY BOOK informs us, that in the reign of King Edward, ſurnamed the Confeſſor, who lived in the tenth century, CHELTENHAM paid him an annual rent of nine pounds five ſhillings, and *three thouſand loaves for the King's dogs;* and that in William the Conqueror's time it paid him twenty pounds yearly, together with twenty cows, twenty hogs, and ſixteen ſhillings in lieu of bread for his dogs.

IN the firſt year of King John, Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, was owner of the Town, and exchanged it with the King for other lands. It was granted by Henry III, to William Longſword, Earl of Saliſbury; who, in the ſeventh year of that King's reign leaſed the benefit of the markets, fairs, and Hundreds of CHELTENHAM to the inhabitants of the Town; and the leaſe, at a certain reſerved rent, was renewed three years after. Longſword was ſucceeded by his ſon William, who, in conſequence of his going out of the land without the King's leave, had his eſtates confiſcated; and the Manor of CHELTENHAM was granted in dower to Queen Eleanor, daughter of the Earl of Provence in France. In the thirty-firſt year of Henry III. the Biſhop of Hereford appears to have been

ſeiſed

ſeiſed of CHELTENHAM, which afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of the abbey of Feſchamp in Normandy, by purchaſe and exchange of lands at Winchelſea and Rye in Suſſex. At length, it was transferred to the priory of Montburg, which was an alien monaſtery in Normandy. But the lands of all alien priories being afterwards veſted by act of parliament in the crown of England, the Manor and the Hundred of CHELTENHAM were granted to the nunnery of Sion in Middleſex. Maud, the abbeſs of the nunnery, levied a fine of them to confirm her title in the twenty-ſecond year of Henry VI. and received a fuller confirmation of it in the firſt year of Edward IV.

SIR MAURICE BERKELEY, of Beverſton, in this county, held the manor, &c. in the fourteenth of Edward IV. which is ſuppoſed to have been under a leaſe from the abbeſſes of Sion; and by the diſſolution of that nunnery, in the general ſweep made by Henry VIII. the Manor of CHELTENHAM came to the crown, and ſo continued till the year 1608, when it was granted to the ancient family of the Duttons of Sherborn in this county. James-Lenox Dutton, Eſq. is the preſent Lord of the Manor, and enjoys great

great privileges and jurisdictions in consequence of his right. Mr. Dutton has an elegant seat, visible from the road a few miles to the right, leading from Burford to CHELTENHAM.

SECTION II.

SITUATION, AIR, AND PRODUCE OF THE COUNTRY.

FEW towns in England can with propriety be said to excel this in point of situation. Fame, indeed, like fate, generally loves a lofty mark; but CHELTENHAM is seated within the bosom of a valley. That valley, however, is part of the extensive *Vale of* EVESHAM, or *Esam*, as it is usually pronounced, whose beauty and fertility every eye hath viewed with a peculiar admiration, and British geographers celebrate with the highest applause *. The district, by

* The ancient inhabitants of the county of Gloucester, in common with those of Oxfordshire, were by the Romans called Dobuni: a name generally supposed to have been derived from the British word *duffen*, which signifies *low* and *deep*; and alludes to the situation of these counties, which consist chiefly of plains and vallies. Some, however, with more seeming probability, are of opinion that it was latinised from *dofu*, another term, expressive of the *richness of the soil*. See *England Displayed*, vol. II. p. 21.

way

way of diſtinction, has alſo by ſome writers been termed "Glouceſter Vale," from its vicinity to that city. It affords ſuch an abundance of the beſt corn, as well as of paſture for ſheep and large cattle, as to be juſtly reckoned the granary of the adjoining counties. CHELTENHAM is placed at the ſouth-weſtern extremity of this delightful ſcene, and is almoſt on every ſide ſurrounded with the gently-riſing verdant hills of *Cleeve*, *Preſtbury*, and *Lechampton*; which, joining the more diſtant *Cotſwoulds*, and forming a kind of ſemicircle or amphitheatre, ſeem as it were emulous to monopolize her as their own; and defend her from thoſe chilling blaſts, which would otherwiſe proceed from the eaſtern quarter.

FROM the neighbourhood particularly of Frogmill, on the Oxford road hither, to Crickly-hill, which leads into the vale of Glouceſter, the beauty of landſcape is truly great and engaging. About ſix miles from the former place, from the top of a riſing ground, is ſeen to the right a moſt prodigious proſpect over the wide-ſpread valley, bounded by the

heights of CHELTENHAM, which often ſeem to tower amidſt the clouds.

HERE uplands ſloping deck the mountain's ſide;
Woods over woods, in gay theatric pride:
While oft ſome temple's ſacred top between,
With venerable grandeur marks the ſcene.

THE incloſures, beautifully diſpoſed, and formed of tall trees and hedges, appear in a ſpacious bottom before you; clad in ſummer with the richeſt variegated verdure, and very diſtinctly ſtrike the admiring view. The whole country around is indeed full of picturesque ſcenes; but the romantic ſpots from Crickly-hill hither, and the other abovementioned, are ſingularly fine; and compoſe a complete piece of elegant nature, well worthy the attention of a traveller.

THE air and atmoſphere of Glouceſterſhire in general are ſaid to be equally ſalubrious, though different in nature according to the variety of the country. *Cotſwould*, for inſtance, being very lofty, the air thereabout is ſharp and chill; but in the vale, particularly in the neighbourhood

neighbourhood of CHELTENHAM, it is ſoft and mild; and even in the wintry ſeaſon not ungenial to its long-liv'd inhabitants *. Such indeed is the ſtriking difference in this reſpect, that of *Cotſwould* it has been commonly obſerved "That eight months of the year are "winter, and the other four too cold for "ſummer; whereas in the vale, eight months "are ſummer, and the remaining four too "warm for an Engliſh winter." Nor will this appear ſo extraordinary to any one, who conſiders the ſituation of the valley; bounded with riſing grounds, encumbered with no ſwamps or marſhy ſoil, and having few ſtreams of water, and thoſe ſmall, running through it †.

THE

* If the beſt proof of the healthfulneſs of the air of any place is to be deduced from the *cuſtomary longevity* of the people, many very old perſons are daily to be ſeen in CHELTENHAM, and parts adjacent; and even the ſilent repoſitories of their anceſtors are vocal, to record the great age of many of the town and neighbourhood. See the church-yard inſcriptions.

† The effects produced by the humidity or dryneſs of the air upon the human body, as being more obvious, are generally more attended to by perſons of infirm habits, than thoſe which ariſe from a greater or leſs degree of gravity. The quantity of vapour raiſed in any place depends principally upon

THE celebrated Dr. Short, in his very ingenious and elaborate treatiſe on the principal mineral waters of Cumberland, &c. remarks of CHELTENHAM, that, "This market town, "lying only two miles from the lovely Wolds "of Oxfordſhire,—thoſe high and charming "hills, richly clothed with much ſweet graſs, "herds and flocks,—hath a dry, thin, pure, "healthy air, fitted for pleaſure and diverſions "all the ſummer:" and after having expatiated on the medicinal qualities of the CHELTENHAM Spring, he adds, in very emphatical terms, "What a noble, rich, nitrous water, with a "fine, healthy, clear air, and dry ſituation can "do, for the recovery or preſervation of "health, may be expected here *."

As the pariſh of CHELTENHAM is large, ſo the ſoil is various. On the eaſtern part, is a

the ſuperficial extent of water in that place, or in its neighbourhood. That the air muſt be greatly charged with vapour in a country where there is a large expanſe of water, is a fact founded on experiment; and ſufficiently accounts for the inſalubrity of thoſe places where it prevails.

* See his Natural Hiſtory of Mineral Waters, 4to, p. 77, 80; from which many particulars in the following narrative are deduced, of the *medical* ſort chiefly.

very

very looſe whitiſh ſand; weſtward a ſtrong clay; to the ſouth a fine rich loam; and in other parts a mixture of loam and ſand.

THE country hereabout produces wood in great plenty for timber, fuel, and other uſes, and abounds with grain, pulſe, vegetables of all kinds, cattle, poultry and game. The inhabitants have alſo excellent butter and bacon, and cyder is the common beverage of the country. Their mutton is remarkably good, flavorous, ſhort, and juicy; and well it may, from the paſturage on which the ſheep are fed: for the graſs is not only of a fine texture and ſweet taſte, but interſperſed on the ſummits of the hills with wild thyme, and various other aromatic plants, like thoſe on Suſſex-downs, or the Welch mountains. The rivers of Glouceſterſhire are juſtly celebrated for their vaſt quantities of fiſh of various kinds; and the Severn eſpecially feaſts the country with ſome of the fineſt ſalmon, lampreys and conger-eels in the whole world.

SECTION

SECTION III.

THE CHURCH, AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church of CHELTENHAM, a handſome building, is in the deanry of Winchcombe, and an impropriation, which formerly, as we obſerved, belonged to the nunnery of Sion; but it is now the property of the Earl of Eſſex, in leaſe to Mr. Aſton. The rectory is valued at 200l. but generally ſuppoſed to be worth 600l. It is built in the form of a croſs, ſtands due N. E. and S. W. and has a high and elegant octagonal ſpire riſing in the middle, which adds greatly to the beauty of proſpect from many parts of the ſurrounding hills. It is noted for a muſical good ring of eight bells, and a tuneable ſet of chimes, which play every three hours. There is an aile on each ſide, and four galleries nearly ſurround it. That on the weſtern end, as appears from a carving in front, was erected by Mrs. Anne Norwood, in the year 1628, and the other three

three by ſubſcription of the inhabitants. There was formerly a chantry in this church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, of which Thomas Ball was the laſt incumbent; but it is now obſolete.

It is a circumſtance rather remarkable, that although the value of the ſtipend is not more than 40l. per annum, the officiating miniſter holds it under a very peculiar tenure. He muſt be nominated by Jeſus College in Oxford, and be a fellow of the ſame: two other fellows with him are recommended at the ſame time to the heir of Sir Baptiſt Hicks, anceſtor of the preſent Earl of Gainſborough, who chooſes one, and preſents him to the biſhop. The college, it ſeems, derive their title from the gentleman above named; and by agreement between them, the incumbent cannot hold his appointment longer than ſix years, unleſs re-elected with the like circumſtances; which generally, if not always, has been the caſe. A ſimilar mode, as to term, prevails alſo in the adjacent pariſh of Charleton Kings, about a mile diſtant.

THE preſent very worthy incumbent of CHELTENHAM is the Reverend Hugh Hughes, deſervedly eſteemed both by the inhabitants his pariſhoners, and the nobility and gentry viſiting the place; the latter of whom, much to their honour, convince him of their regard in making him a more ſuitable proviſion than the narrow income of the cure allows, by a ſubſcription for daily prayers during the ſeaſon. A lecture ſermon on ſunday afternoon is ſupported by the inhabitants. Here is no parſonage-houſe; which is the caſe of ſome other pariſhes in the neighbourhood.

IN the chancel, over the communion table to the left, is the following inſcription; which is here inſerted, not only for its pious peculiarities, but as otherwiſe it may be loſt, when ſome intended alterations are made in this part of the church; which really needs them no leſs than the pews in general.

" THE ſad Memoriall of JOHN ENGLISH, Dr.
" in Divinitie, To JANE his moſt deare Wife,
" daughter to the Honourable Elizabeth Lady
" Sandys, Baroneſe *de laVine*, Comit. Southton;
" from

" from whom hee was divorced by 18 weeks
" cloſe impriſonment, which ſoone after cav-
" ſed her death, on Aug. 8. 1643. And to
" MARIE his 2d. daughter, who deceaſed Oc-
" tober 25, following,

Deare Soules, and bleſt: you both delivered be,
Having exchang'd your priſons before mee:
Whilſt I ſurvive to grieve, and find it true,
That for myſelfe I weepe, more than for you.
Nor can tears quench my zeale: like funerall fire,
That flames for her I lov'd till I expire.

Sic cecinit lugens, et diſſolvi cupiens,
Pius conjux, ac moeſtus parens;

I. E.

Qui mundo ſuſpirans & coelum aſpirans,
Indeſinenter clamat,
Bone JESU, eſto meus JESUS!
Sis meus, O JESU! ſis JESUS (Chriſte) meorum!
Sweet Saviour of Mankind,
The Saviour bee of mee and mine!

Sic { Spirans oravit,
Expirans exoravit,
Reſpirans perorabit,

JOHNS. ENGLISH. S { acri / anctæ / empiternæ } V { erbi / eritatis / itæ } Studioſus.

AMEN!

Obiit Anno Chriſti * * * *."

FRONTING the entrance of the chancel door is affixed to the wall a handſome marble cœnotaph, with this inſcription:

"IN Memory of BAPTIST SMART, M. D. late of this place; who after a long and painful illneſs, departed this life at the Hot-wells, Briſtol, December 20th, 1772, in the 63d year of his age; and lies interred at Clifton."

AT the bottom are his arms, *argent*, a *chevron* between three pheons' heads, *ſable;* on an eſcutcheon of pretenſe, quarterly, *ermine* and *azure;* a croſs *or*.

CLOSE beſide this is another of the like form, and equally elegant; erected for Mr. HENRY STURMY, who died Oct. 24, 1772; aged 51 years. And beneath are his arms emblazoned, 3 demi-lions *gules*, on a field *or*.

UPON a flat ſtone below, there is a memorial round the edge, on braſs, now almoſt totally effaced, which we find is for William Grevil, one of the judges of the court of common pleas, who died in the 4th year of Henry VII. Anno Domini 1512. Together with other inſcriptions

ſcriptions about the place, for the Grevil family, who were formerly the poſſeſſors of Arle-Court,—ſituate in one of the hamlets belonging to CHELTENHAM pariſh,—by the marriage of Robert, brother to Judge Grevil, with the daughter and coheireſs of John Arles.

OVER the chancel door, upon a very neat table monument of white marble, is inſcribed a melancholy cataſtrophe of recent date, which befel the lady during her intended ſtay for the ſeaſon in this town. The wretch was one of her own domeſtics.

" To the Memory of KATHERINE,
The Wife of WILLIAM, P. A. A'COURT,
of Heyteſbury in the county of Wilts, Eſq.
Who departed this life on the 23d day of Sept.
1776.
In the 32d year of her age.

The ſtricteſt honour and virtue,
Elegance of manners,
Integrity of heart,
And delicacy of ſentiment,
Endeared her to a ſelect circle of friends
and acquaintance.

She

She was cheriſhed, as an only child,
By an indulgent father;
Beloved, from infancy, by a tender huſband;
In whoſe arms ſhe died, an unnatural death,
Effected by poiſon,
Adminiſtered by the hands of
A cruelly-wicked livery ſervant:
Whoſe reſentment, at being detected in theft,
Prompted him to perpetrate
This horrid and execrable crime."

Jas. Wyatt inv. R. Weſtmacott ſculp.

In the chapel, at the eaſt end of the north aile, is a very ſingular window, with a tracery of various compartments, diſpoſed circularly in the manner of a flower; and thence,—like that in York cathedral of a ſimilar form,—uſually denominated *The marigold window.*

Near to the above, on a table monument of freeſtone, is the following:

" Hic juxta ſita eſt
Catharina
Fleetwoodi Dormer Equitis Aurati Sponſa
Johannis Lygon de Arle-Court Armigeri,
Ex Elizabetha uxore filia,
Utriuſque

Utriuſque parentis hæres unica;
Cujus familia in *agro Wigornienſi*
Per trecentos et amplius annos
Floruit, et adhuc feliciter floret:
A tanto licet genere oriunda, nobiliq; nupta,
Stirpem tamen, et conjugem,
Utroſque antea illuſtres,
Morum ſanctitate illuſtriores reddidit;
Maritum, ſi non patrem, hæredem ſcripſit;
Hæc, illum, moriens amplo patrimonio,
Ille, hanc amiſſam, hoc monumento decoravit.
Deceſſit, Feb. 3.
Anno { Ætatis 72.
Domini 1678.

JOHANNIS LYGON ſupradictus obiit 1644. filius unicus RICARDI LYGON de *Maddersfield*, Arm. ex ſecundis nuptiis cum MARGARETA filia JOH. TALBOT militis, ex ſtirpe Comitum *Salopiæ*: Affinis etiam fuit Baronibus de *Berkeley-Caſtro*, aliiſq; proceribus, et per uxores ſuas heredibus quorum inſignia ſuperne depinguntur."

THE arms here alluded to are in fifteen quarterings, of the families of Lygon, Bracey, Maddersfield,

Maddersfield, Harefleet, Decors, Giffard, Beauchamp, Abtot, Uffleet, Furnival, Luftot, Verdon, Grevil, Arle, and Southiey, emblazoned on an escutcheon.

THERE is likewise an inscription in the south aile, for CHRISTOPHER BAILEY, M. A. who, after having been 32 years master of the CHELTENHAM free school, died in 1654. A table of benefactions to the parish is also affixed to the top of the north side of the aile.

SECTION IV.

THE TOWN, HOSPITAL, PUBLIC CHARITIES, AND SCHOOLS.

CHELTENHAM is laid out in the easy form of an S, running from S. S. E. to N. N. W. and consists principally of one regular, spacious and handsome street, about a mile in length. Thus disposed, it conveys to the eye an idea of greater extent, and has a much more pleasing effect than the strait appearance of a thoroughfare. The houses here are chiefly of brick, though plenty of good stone

ſtone might be had from the quarries near at hand. At preſent the ſtreet is greatly encumbered with certain old coarſe buildings ſupported on ſtone pillars: theſe are called the *Corn Market*, *Butter Croſs*, and another below them neither has nor merits a name *. A little farther down, is a kind of cage or priſon, built of ſtone, and not unſuitably decorated with the inſcription in front, "Do well, and fear not." It is hoped that objects ſo very unſightly will ſoon be removed, and the neceſſary accommodations for marketting, &c. placed on ſome more retired and convenient ſpot.

Just below theſe, on the ſouth ſide of the ſtreet, a narrow avenue leads on to the churchyard, which is rendered ſingularly agreeable by double rows of ſhady limes, that ſurround and croſs through it. At the end of one of theſe walks, arched over by an almoſt impenetrable ſhade, is erected a ſmall alcove with a ſeat; over which, in the front, ſome well-meaning ſon of Apelles hath depicted a female form, reclined againſt a pillar, and contem-

* An old uninhabited houſe belonging to a Mr. Hayward.

plating

plating a ſkull. His idea, however rudely executed, may ſuggeſt ſomething better to a more able hand, and has at leaſt the credit of being deduced from that excellent and well-known picture of "the Magdalen of the Rock." In due reſpect therefore to the modern artiſt of CHELTENHAM, it muſt be confeſſed with the poet, *magnis tamen excidit auſis*: he did his beſt upon a great ſubject.

ON the road ſide leading from the turnpike into the town, is a neat old dwelling, with convenient offices and grounds, newly fitted up by Richard Cox, Eſq. for his occaſional ſummer reſidence, and called the *Cottage* from its humble ſtyle. The inns of CHELTENHAM are the Plough, the Swan, the George, and the Fleece.

CHELTENHAM is a market town: the market is held weekly on Thurſday. Its annual fairs are five; namely, on the ſecond Thurſday in April; holy Thurſday; the ſecond Thurſday in September; and third Thurſday in December, for *cattle of all ſorts:* and on the 5th of Auguſt (St. James's day old ſtyle) for *lambs*

lambs only, which are then brought hither in great abundance. At the September fair, a ſtatute alſo is held for the hiring of men and women ſervants; and at the other four are ſold pedlary and other wares, toys, &c.

A CONSIDERABLE trade is here carried on for malt made in the town, but it is ſaid not to be of ſo extenſive a nature as formerly. The only manufacture purſued at preſent in CHELTENHAM is in white cotton ſtockings, which for fineneſs, texture and value, may vie with thoſe of moſt towns: great quantities of them have of late years been ſold in the neighbourhood, or exported to London and elſewhere, and are much eſteemed. The women and children of the poorer ſort comb and ſpin woollen yarn for the clothiers about Stroud, in this county; near which town, upon the hills of Cotſwould, the fleeces are ſuperlatively good: and it is recorded, that the celebrated breed of ſheep which produces the fine Spaniſh wool, was originally raiſed from ſome of the Cotſwould ſheep, ſent as a preſent to the King of Spain by one of our good-natured Sovereigns.

My Name is Howard

THERE is alſo in the town of CHELTENHAM an *Hoſpital*, and a *Free-ſchool*, founded in the year 1574, by Richard Pates, Eſq. of Glouceſter. The former is for the reception of ſix poor perſons, three men, and three women; to each of whom a ſtipend is allowed of twelvepence weekly, and fourpence quarterly; together with ſixteen ſhillings yearly, laid out in a coat for each of the men, and a gown for each woman. They have moreover twopence each weekly from another donor.

THE *Free-ſchool*, a good decent ſtone building, is endowed with 16 l. a-year for the maſter; a houſe for his reſidence, and 4 l. a-year for the uſher. The preſent maſter is the Rev. Mr. Fowler. The lands aſſigned by Mr. Pates for the ſupport of theſe pious foundations were veſted in Corpus Chriſti College, Oxford; and were long ſince ſaid to be worth 60 l. per ann. to which the College, as governors, have added 5 l. per ann. and they nominate the maſter and uſher of the ſchool, whom the biſhop of the dioceſe approves.

AN *Exhibitioner* goes from hence to Pembroke college, for *eight years*, with *ten* pounds per ann. given by the will of George Townſend of Lincoln's-Inn, Middleſex, Eſq. A. D. 1683; and ſome ſmall tenements in CHELTENHAM are likewiſe allotted to the maintenance of the charity.

THE above Mr. Townſend hath founded here another ſchool, and endowed it with 4 l. a-year to the maſter, for *teaching the children to read*; beſides leaving 5 l. a-year, for *apprenticing out lads* in this pariſh.

Mr. JOHN WALLWYN of the adjacent pariſh of Swindon, by his will in 1627, gave fifty ſhillings yearly for ever to the poor of CHELTENHAM, charged on his manor of Swindon.

IN 1667, diverſe charities aſſigned for the benefit of the poor, and for putting out apprentices, were conſolidated and laid out in the purchaſe of lands, called "The poor's grounds," at that time worth eight pounds five ſhillings a-year; but they are now let at the improved rent of eighteen pounds per ann. and applied

to the charitable purpoſes of the reſpective donors.

AND, in the year 1704, the Rev. William Stanſby, Vicar of Badgworth, left an eſtate there, which lets at 14 l. a-year, for *apprenticing boys*: of which ſum that pariſh is to have 5 l. Churchdown 3 l. and CHELTENHAM the overplus yearly.

HERE is a boarding-ſchool for young ladies, kept by Mrs. Anſel; and another for young gentlemen, under the care of Mr. Wells, who alſo takes day-ſcholars: ſo that parents who bring down or ſend their children hither for the benefit of the Spa, may avoid loſing time in their education. At the bottom of the town are a quakers and an anabaptiſt meeting.

ACCORDING to an account publiſhed in the year 1712, there were 321 houſes in this pariſh, and about 1500 inhabitants: the numbers are ſince much increaſed, and now eſtimated at about 400 houſes, and 2000 inhabitants. Here is at preſent a great want of convenient *Lodging Houſes*, to accommodate the company

pany ſuitable to their rank and uſual mode of living; nor is it doubted, but that a becoming ſpirit for this purpoſe, which is now beginning to exert itſelf, will ſoon remove this principal and daily-increaſing defect. Such indeed of the town's people as let their apartments, are mutually emulous to fit them up in the neateſt manner for the reception of ſtrangers; but many do not let lodgings,—induced ſolely to reſide at CHELTENHAM from the pleaſantneſs of its ſituation; and ſeveral of the more ancient houſes are too ſmall for the purpoſe, and never were intended for it.

PROPOSALS have lately been drawn up, and ſubſcriptions ſet on foot by Mr. Miller, the preſent worthy Renter of the SPA; a gentleman, whoſe purſe, as well as time, and every attention, are liberally devoted to the completion of a ſet of New Buildings, ſomewhere near the Public Walks. Several other gentlemen have joined in the plan, which muſt certainly prove of eſſential advantage to invalids *, and

* The ingenious Mr. Guthrie obſerves, that one part (and that certainly no ſmall one) of the ſalutary virtues aſcribed to the

and can no leſs tend to the emolument of the inhabitants:

Fortunatos nimium, ſua ſi bona nôrint!

SECTION V.

PUBLIC WALKS, AND ROOMS.

THE church-yard, before noticed, falls very properly under this head, and extends from eaſt to weſt above three hundred feet. On quitting it at the ſouthweſt gate, a paſſage is opened towards the CHELTENHAM SPA; to which you are conducted firſt through

the mineral waters of Germany, is owing to the exerciſes and amuſements of the patients reſorting to them. It is the intereſt, ſays he, of the proprietors to provide for both: and many of the German princes feel the benefit of the various elegant and polite inſtitutions for the diverſion of the public. The neatneſs and conveniency of the above places of public reſort are inconceivable; and though at firſt they were attended with expence, yet they more than paid themſelves in a few years, by the company which crowds to them from all parts of the world; many of whom do not repair thither for health, but for amuſement and converſation. *Preſent State*, *p.* 419.

a well-

a well-conſtructed ſerpentine gravel walk, 106 yards long, and ten feet wide, planted on either hand with a neat quickſet. To the right of this walk, within "The Grove," a pretty incloſure ſhaded with lofty trees, is a large ſtately manſion of modern ſtructure, called by way of diſtinction *The great Houſe*; the chief part of which is generally let out in commodious lodgings for the company. Its vicinity to the Long Room and Well renders it a very convenient reſort for cards, dancing, tea-drinking and other parties, who meet here every evening in the week during the ſeaſon, Mondays excepted, and make a ſubſcription for Mrs. Field, the preſent poſſeſſor.

You next enter a pleaſant field, called CHURCH MEAD;

"The ſilent mead,
Where the murmuring rivulet flows;
Where the elm extends her ſhade,
And each riſing beauty blows."

THROUGH this a gravel walk, ſix feet wide and above 270 feet in length, leads to the river *Chelt*; who winds his humble current round

round the bottom of the Well-walks and other grounds adjacent, and in his courſe turns ſeveral overſhot mills for the grinding of corn. A ſlight draw-bridge is thrown over the ſtream, and introduces to the public parade, whoſe beauty muſt ſtrike the moſt common obſerver; extending in a ſtraight line by a gentle aſcent to the famous SPRING, the nature and excellency of whoſe waters merit a diſtinct conſideration.

THIS, which I would call The LOWER GRAND PARADE, is 200 yards long, and about 20 feet wide: it has an orchard both on the right and left, and is ſkirted on each ſide with a quickſet, and a graſs border three yards wide; along which is a beautifully uniform plantation of tall ſtraight elms, placed at equal diſtances of about 12 feet from each other, and diffuſing a moſt delightful ſhade in the hotteſt weather.

ABOVE the Spring is a ſimilar walk, planted on either hand with high flowering limes, of ſingular verdure and fragrance in the ſummer months. This UPPER PARADE is 104 yards in length;

length; and beyond it, within a neat fence, is another part laid down in graſs, and lately planted on each ſide with young elms; around which is thrown a ſerpentine walk and quick-ſet, giving the ſcene an agreeable variety; and at the farther end it is propoſed to form a garden, with an alcove in centre, to terminate the view.

THE two Parades above the *Chelt*, and on each ſide the Well, are compoſed of a binding marle, intermixed with fine gravel; and bear a ſurface of ſo firm a texture, that for the laſt fifteen years, I am informed it hath received no other trimming than the numerous footſteps of the company; who really enjoy here a mall, which, in proportion to its extent, may vie with the moſt celebrated of its kind throughout the kingdom *.

FROM

* The whole length of the ſeveral walks, from the Church-yard inclufive, to the Cloſe at the end of the Upper Parade, is more than 900 yards: a ſufficient demonſtration that the Writer means not to exaggerate its beauty. The following is an exact admeaſurement taken by a ſurveyor.

FROM this avenue the moſt pleaſing effect in perſpective is diſplayed, by the incidental poſition of the Church Spire. Elegant in itſelf, and ſtanding in a direct line with the Parades and Well, it is ſeen to peculiar advantage, cutting exactly the centre of the walks, and crowning the termination of the viſto. This ſingular coincidence naturally turns the idea of a traveller to another as ſtriking, in the park of Earl Bathurſt at Cirenceſter. One of the moſt curious, and perhaps caſual, objects of thoſe magnificent grounds, has a like effect, though on a larger ſcale. In the midſt of the Deer

	Yards.
Walk through the Church-yard, - -	101
Serpentine walk to Church-mead gate, -	106
Through the mead to the Chelt gate, - -	190
Thence over the brook, to the bottom of the Parades, - - - - -	25
The Lower Grand Parade - - -	200
The Spa paved Court, a ſquare of near -	11
The Upper Parade, above the Well, -	104
The graſs walk, at the end of the Upper Parade,	200
	937

Or 2811 feet; that is, above half a mile. *Chriſt-church Walk* in Oxford is a quarter of a mile long; and the *Grand Terras* at Stow is 3000 feet.

Park,

Park, before the houſe, is placed a fine lofty column, on which is a ſtatue of Queen Anne, larger than the life. This pillar is near a mile diſtant from the houſe. Place your back toward the pillar, and you ſee the beautiful tower of the pariſh church of Cirenceſter, ſo immediately riſing in the centre of the manſion, that an obſerver might be eaſily induced to believe the tower was a part of his Lordſhip's houſe, were it not of a different colour *. I cannot omit to obſerve upon this head, that the ſpire of St. George's Church Bloomſbury, in Middleſex, placed directly behind the Britiſh Muſeum, preſents a ſimilar effect to the ſpectator from the fields leading to Pancras, in front of that noble edifice.

THE COURT in which the Well ſtands is a quadrangle of near eleven yards: on two ſides of which are placed THE OLD and NEW ROOM.

* In the "New Hiſtory of Glouceſterſhire," printed by Mr. Rudder, at Cirenceſter, in folio, A.D. 1779, is given a very neat print of this view. To the Editor of that elaborate and uſeful work, the Writer of the preſent is happy in the opportunity to acknowledge his pamphlet under great obligations.

The former is on the right hand, about 35 feet long, and 18 feet wide, and has three windows on the ſide towards the meadow. It is now ſeldom uſed but upon ball-nights, for card parties, every Monday during the ſeaſon; it is neatly papered and furniſhed, but in no other reſpect remarkable, ſave for its comparative ſmallneſs to that of the Long Room oppoſite; and as it exhibits a proof of the rapid increaſe of company to the waters of CHELTENHAM within a very few years.

ON one of the windows, ſome ingenious wag has inſcribed with a diamond the following apoſtrophe:

TO THE INVALIDS.

YE heartleſs invalids, a race of fools,
Content to die, if by the doctor's rules;
Attend, and know, that one who labour'd long
With acrid juices, and the nerves unſtrung,
Forſaking phyſic, by experience wiſe,
Drew health from temperance and from exerciſe.

20th July, 1752. J. W——N.

ON another window are the following lines, evidently by the ſame hand; and ſaid to be written

IN

IN A VERY WET SEASON.

CHELT'NHAM, what ſin againſt the ſkies
Can merit theſe perpetual rains,
That ev'n to drench thee might ſuffice,
Were thine Arabia's thirſty plains?

Much thou wilt ſuffer hence, I fear,
Thy healing waters though we love;
What conſtitution long can bear
With theſe below, and thoſe above?

This made th' intrepid PULTENEY * fly,
Which fire and ſmoke could never do:
Smile ſoon, ye ſkies! or by and by
Will troops of ladies follow too.

For, when the men of martial fame
So much their noble courage loſe,
Well may the ladies do the ſame;
And what will then become of HUGHES †?

25th July, 1752. J. W——N.

OVER the OLD ROOM is a convenient *Billiard Room*, with an excellent table for the diverſion of the nobility and gentry; and be-

* General Pulteney.

† The renter of the Spring at that time; long ſince retired from CHELTENHAM, and ſaid to be now living in Wales.

yond

yond theſe apartments, under the ſame roof, are the dwelling houſe and proper offices for the proprietor's ſervants, immediately attending to pump and diſtribute the water, to bottle it occaſionally for exportation; and in winter to manage the preparation of the pure ſalts extracted from them. Theſe are ſold here by the proprietor; at all the mineral water warehouſes in London; and at Mr. Parry's, apothecary, in Bath.

THE NEW LONG ROOM, on the eaſt ſide of the quadrangle, is a very handſome and commodious building, and was erected by Mr. William Skillicorne, the ground landlord, and Mr. William Miller, the preſent leſſee of the Spa, in 1775. It is about 70 feet in length, 25 feet wide, and 20 feet high; having ſix windows in front towards the Well, and two at each end. The principal entrance is at the north end. The centre is decorated with three rich glaſs chandeliers, and the room otherwiſe furniſhed in a ſuitable ſtyle. At the upper end is a gallery ſome feet from the floor, for the band of muſic, who perform at the ball every Monday evening: and here are public breakfaſts

breakfaſts every Monday during the ſeaſon, when the company is generally very numerous, and joined by many of the neighbouring gentry. Great eaſe and harmony prevail amongſt the company; and in few public places are they leſs encumbered with form, or more free from diſagreeable reſtraints.

THE SPA SEASON at CHELTENHAM, is from May till October, but there is generally moſt company in the months of June, July, Auguſt, and part of September.

AT a diſtance of between two and three hundred yards from the Long Room, are the remains of a *Cold-Bath*, built cloſe beſide the *Chelt*, and originally ſupplied from its ſtream, which for many years was much reſorted to. It is pity that an accommodation at once ſo pleaſant and uſeful, ſhould have been left to decay. It has been propoſed to repair it, which is certainly to be wiſhed, for the benefit of the Inhabitants at large. But the Writer is of opinion, that a cold-bath erected in the Cloſe, at the top of the Graſs Walk beyond the Parades, would be far more eligible for the Company, in point of

of ſituation; as there is a fine ſpring of pure cool water ready to ſupply it, and its nearneſs to the Walks and Long Room muſt give it the preference for invalids. Indeed nothing can be more deſirable, next to the increaſe of good Lodging-Houſes, than an improvement of this ſalutary kind.

SECTION VI.

THE SPA;

ITS VIRTUES, AND EFFECTS.

ON an eaſy aſcent, ſouthward of the church, is the CHELTENHAM SPA, which to adopt the language and authority of one of the beſt judges on the ſubject *—"Juſtly "challenges the preference of all the purging "waters in England, of the nitro-calcarious "mineral claſs." It riſes out of a mixed loamy and ſandy ſoil,—the ſame on which the town ſtands, and its environs for ten miles round. The whole ſcite is elevated and dry, yet ſingularly fertile; affording a plentiful

* Dr. Short, Nat. Hiſt. ut ſupra.

produce

produce of all things for the accommodation and innocent pleaſures of life. Under the ſandy ſurface lies a ſtrong, thick, bluiſh clay, or marle: the plot around is an incloſure, about the centre of which a ſlow Spring was long ſince obſerved to ooze out, which ſpread itſelf a few yards upon the ſurface, and then diſappeared; being either evaporated by the ſun, or abſorpt by the ſoil; yet leaving much of its ſalts behind.

To this ſpot came daily flocks of pigeons, either to feed on thoſe ſalts, or to drink the liquid; of which at length one Mr. Maſon in particular took notice. It had alſo been remarked, that in hard froſty weather, when other ſprings were faſt bound, this alone continued in its fluid ſtate; and upon trial it was found to be cathartic. Mr. Maſon, being poſſeſſed of ſome land adjoining, within eight or ten yards of the Spring, dug to a conſiderable depth in his own ground, expecting to find the original there; but miſſing it, he in the year 1718, became proprietor of the field by purchaſe, together with the Spring. It was then circumſcribed within a kind of well, and a little

ſhed thrown over it; and after ſome experiments made with the water by the ingenious Dr. Baird of Worceſter, and Dr. Grevil of Glouceſter, it was ſold medicinally till the year 1721, when a very worthy and public-ſpirited gentleman took a leaſe of it, at ſixty one pounds per annum,

AFTER the deceaſe of Mr. Maſon and his ſon; the Spring and premiſes devolved to Capt. Henry Skillicorne of this town, as proprietor in right of his wife, the daughter of Mr. Maſon; who in the ſummer of 1738, not only built the OLD ROOM on the right hand for the drinkers, with ſeveral other conveniences, but ſecured the Spring from all extraneous matters; erected the dome, as it now ſtands, over the Well; laid out the paved court about it; planted the elms and limes; formed the gravel walks, and was continually doing ſomething to improve the ſcene, and render it worthy of the reſpectable companies who avidiouſly reſorted hither.

ABOUT this time, Dr. Short, who was then accurately inveſtigating all the mineral waters of

of the kingdom, viſited CHELTENHAM in his courſe, and made various experiments on the water, which are publiſhed with much encomium in his treatiſe before mentioned. Theſe firſt drew the attention of the public about the year 1740: ſince which, many other eminent phyſicians * have at different periods examined and recommended the ſubject; and thus on the moſt ſolid and clear principles eſtabliſhed its utility and reputation.

THE DOME over the Spring, is a ſquare brick building, formed on four arches, with columns of the ſame; and ornamented at the top with a dial and a globe. On the eaſt ſide, under the arch, is a pump, riſing in form of an obeliſk. The Well is in the centre of the dome, ſunk between eight and nine feet from the ſurface. The water, ſpringing up to about four or five feet, is incloſed in a round baſon of lead; above which to the ſurface is a ſquare ſtone reſervoir, adapted to contain all the water for thirty-ſix hours together, and covered

* Linden, Lucas, Ruſſel, Rutty, &c.

with a wooden curb and door, to lock and unlock occaſionally.

ALL the ground beneath the ſurface of the Well is ſimply clay or marle: for though upon laying foundations, &c. great quantities of the ſoil about it have been dug up at ſeveral times to five and ſix feet deep, the workmen reached no different ſtrata of earth, or other out-breaks of the water, which is ſuppoſed to originate from ſome of the ſurrounding hills.

NOTWITHSTANDING the ſpring-head opens ſo near the ſurface, the water riſes up exceedingly clear *. It is of a bitteriſh, ſalt, ſteely taſte; and Dr. Short informs us, that immediately as it iſſues

* In the month of Auguſt, ſome of the water was expoſed to the open air, and remained perfectly clear for eleven days together. Which, by the way, is a proof of the cloſe union of its texture; ſince in ſuch a ſpace of time a conſiderable part of the vehicle, water, muſt exhale when thus expoſed. This is alſo an argument how little its weight is increaſed by carriage from the ſpring-head to the metropolis and elſewhere; and hence we may fairly infer, that water thus conſtituted may be exported to any part of the world, and ſtill preſerve virtues, if the veſſel containing it be properly ſecured

it

it is fifty grains in a pint heavier than common water, and on ſtanding a little, increaſes in weight twenty grains more. In his time the Spring produced thirty-five pints *in an hour*; which, in the uſual courſe of drinking the water, is ſufficient for three hundred and fifty perſons.

It is commonly taken from one pint to three, in a morning; and though it purges powerfully, the operation is lenient, and effected with the greateſt eaſe to the drinker; being never attended with griping, teneſmus, nauſea, languor, or other painful conſequences *. Dr. Short calls it a *very brine of nitre*, yet genial and balſamic; and he aſſerts it to be the

* Dr. Lucas in his *Eſſays on Waters*, part II. obſerves that the peaſants of the country hereabout commit extraordinary exceſſes in their potation of the CHELTENHAM SPA, without feeling any ſenſible inconvenience. "I have ſeen," ſays he, "old men drink CHELTENHAM water by the quart, without number or rule. Upon inquiring their intention and method, they anſwered, that they had drank them on ſuch and ſuch days and holidays for upwards of thirty years. They ſaid they had no diſorders; but they reckoned it wholeſome to cleanſe their bodies; and they had no rule, but to drink till the water paſſed clean through them. Yet I have not been able to diſcover any ill effects from this ſtrange practice."

only

only one of the kind yet diſcovered, in all the counties whoſe mineral waters he had examined. "Hence," ſays he, "whilſt other "places boaſt of their purging waters, CHEL-"TENHAM has juſt occaſion, not to envy, but "to glory and triumph over them all *."

ON evaporation they have been found to contain in a gallon eight drachms of nitrous ſalt, with about two drachms of an impalpable alkaline earth. To their redundancy of nitre they principally owe their cathartic virtue; and that they are alſo compounded of a degree of light ſulphur is manifeſt, from the fœtid dejections or ſediment left behind in any veſſel which has held them for ſome time. They likewiſe are ſtrongly impregnated with a volatile ſteel, diſcoverable by their tranſparently blue colour when mixed with an infuſion of nut-galls.

SPEAKING of their ſpecific gravity, Dr. Short particularly mentions, That at different times he has procured ſeven hundred and forty-ſeven,

* Nat. Hiſt. p. 78. and his Pref. p. iii.

and

and ſix hundred and twenty-two, and ſix hundred and ninety-two grains of ſediment from a gallon of the water; which gives ſix hundred and eighty-ſeven grains upon an average. He alſo adds concerning the CHELTENHAM SPRING ſome things, which he deemed too remarkable to be omitted, and which he had not obſerved in any other of the ſame claſs. Amongſt theſe are,

I. Its greater exemption from gritty, coarſe earth or ſand. II. The quicker and eaſier cryſtallization of its ſalts, which have a diſpoſition to that end beyond any other ſpring whatever. III. The cryſtals ſtand longeſt in the open air, and that in very rainy ſeaſons, without being in the leaſt liquefied or moiſtened. IV. "The ſalts," ſays he, "are not only the "bittereſt I have taſted, but inſtead of chill-"ing the mouth and tongue, like other nitre, "they warm and give a glow, ſomewhat like "marine ſalts, but in a much more genial "and pleaſant manner *." V. CHELTENHAM

* See Nat. Hiſt. Pref. page xiv. the Treatiſe itſelf, p. 29. and Ruſſel on Sea-Water, p. 224. for a confirmation of theſe remarks.

water

water lying all night in the body, does not diſturb it, or impede reſt; but goes off the next morning with great and ſingular facility. VI. It moſt effectually and powerfully cleanſes the *uropœia* from ſand, ſludge, and ſmall ſtones, without leaving its own ſediment in the blood or paſſages, to be the foundation of a freſh complaint.

THESE are ſome of thoſe peculiar qualities of the SPA, to which many more may be added to confirm their excellence. "The waters of "CHELTENHAM," ſays another learned phyſician, "are ſo ſuitable to all, in whatever "calling or ſtage of life, that they may ſafely be "taken, from the ſucking infant, to the moſt "decrepit and worn-down age of man, with-"out the leaſt hazard of detriment to any con-"ſtitution whatſoever." They ſeldom if ever fail, not only to give a keen appetite, but an eaſy digeſtion and quiet nights. Their pure ſalts, quickened and regulated in their effect by a fine exhilarating, volatile, chalybeate ſpirit, at the ſame time that they expel all groſs and viſcid humours, add great life and cheerfulneſs to the whole animal œconomy.

Hence

Hence the moſt eminent of the faculty have recommended them for all ſcorbutic and bilious complaints, though of long ſtanding; acidities in the ſtomach, whether from flatulency or indigeſtion; habitual coſtiveneſs; obſtructions of the liver or ſpleen *; leproſy, king's evil, and the diſorder called St. Anthony's fire; inflammations in the eyes, and all other inflammatory caſes of whatever kind, whether proceeding from ſtone, gout, or gravel: under all which circumſtances they are eſteemed of ſovereign efficacy, when accompanied, as they ever ſhould be, with gentle exerciſe, and a proper regimen of diet.

Such are the *general* caſes, in which the Cheltenham Spring is calculated to adminiſter relief and health. But although its benign ſtream may thus be taken at any pe-

* Over the Fountain of Pouhon, in Germany, the celebrated original Spa, whence all others derive their appellation, are engraven the following lines, expreſſive of its virtues; and equally applicable to the effects of the Cheltenham Well, as above enumerated.

Obſtructum referat, durum terit, humida ſiccat,
Debile fortificat, ſi tamen arte bibis.

riod, and without prejudice to almoſt all conſtitutions; yet doth it by no means follow, that it ſhould be a *Panacea*, or univerſal remedy, for relief of all the varied infirmities incident to the human frame. Broad, bold aſſumptions of this ſort ſerve only to prove too much; to amuſe mankind; and they favour very ſuſpiciouſly of empiriciſm. It is therefore neceſſary, and but juſt, to point out thoſe ſpecific diſtempers to which the virtues of the CHELTENHAM waters are more peculiarly adapted, and thus prevent an unbeneficial uſe of them: becauſe, though they will not prove prejudicial to any, yet it is ever diſagreeable, where expectations are heightened, to find that the deſired end is not obtained. I ſhall cloſe this head with ſome *more particular* obſervations from Dr. Short, who appears to have ſtudied the ſubject with a very ſuperior degree of attention.

HE adviſes the uſe of theſe waters in chronical complaints of the *head*, when ariſing from too cold and viſcid foods, as melons, muſhrooms, &c. but recommends in this caſe bleeding and laxatives previouſly, in order to attenuate

attenuate and cool the blood *. If the head-ach is attended with a pale countenance, ſlow circulation, and a ſluggiſhneſs both of body and mind; and in all caſes of *palſy* and *apoplexy*, originating from viſcid blood; he would have the drinking of the water to be conſtantly accompanied with daily riding, the fleſh bruſh, and ſuitable diet †.

For any redundant wateriſneſs of the *eyes*, or lippitude, whether from a defluxion falling upon the eye-lids, or various other cauſes; he declares it of excellent uſe to *waſh* them daily at the Spring, but *not to rub* them; and quotes the caſe of a Mrs. Smith, who being nearly blind, regained her ſight by that means, and drinking the water at the ſame time ‡.

For *aſthma*, proceeding from a fullneſs of the lymphatic veſſels ||; *loſs of appetite*, either reſulting from a foul ſtomach, or phlegm lodged in it and the inteſtines; or from mere torpor and relaxation of the ſtomach, waterineſs of the

* Nat. Hiſt. p. 204. † Ib. p. 205, 210, 212.
‡ Ib. 218. || Ib. 224. Numbers of caſes of the moſt violent ſcorbutic and other diſorders could be cited, that have been cured by theſe waters.

blood, ſlow circulation, and a coldneſs of the animal frame: a *canine, voracious appetite*, ariſing from a laxity of the ſtomach and bowels; which, having loſt their retentive faculty, ſuffer all foods to eſcape them crude and undigeſted. *Neſts of worms*, extending and crawling in the bowels, which devour the food that ſhould nouriſh the body *. *Habitual coſtiveneſs;* in which caſe, ſays he, no medicines are comparable to a long courſe of nitrous waters drank warm, eſpecially on going to bed †. The *cholic*, from almoſt any cauſe, whether bilious, nervous, nephritic, or hyſteric; but if it proceed from indurated fæces, he recommends the water to be warmed, as in the caſe of coſtiveneſs ‡. Of the dropſy he treats very largely, and ſhews in what caſes this remedy is proper ‖. He next recommends it in caſes of *ſterility* and *obſtruction*, from the various cauſes §; in *cachexy*, *atrophy*, or *conſumption;* and above all, in that peculiarly-topical, Engliſh complaint, the SCURVY, which he truly

* See particularly Short's Nat. Hiſt. p. 228, 237.
† Ib. p. 232. ‡ Ib. p. 235. ‖ Ib. p. 238, to 240. § Ib. 249, 250.

calls

calls "this Proteus-like diſtemper, that mi-
"micks all others *."

At the cloſe of his remarks, our very judi-cious and indefatigable author informs his reader, "That at the ſeveral ſprings which "engaged his purſuit, he took particular care, "by ſtrict inquiry, to find out thoſe *diſeaſes* "in which each ſpring had been found moſt "ſucceſsful; the *ſymptoms* attending the diſ-"eaſe, and in what *conſtitutions;* as alſo to "diſcover thoſe caſes and ſymptoms wherein "the waters had either failed or done hurt; "together with the patients' uſe of them, and "of non-naturals, ſuch as food, ſleep, exer-"ciſe, &c. ſo as thereby to afford a moral "probability, if not a demonſtration, that the "benevolent, but eſpecially the afflicted, part "of mankind might proceed with the greater "certainty and ſatisfaction †."

As the beſt cloſe of this moſt principal ſec-tion, it will now be neceſſary to lay before the reader

* Ib. p. 252, to 270. See alſo 204. † Ib. p. 280.

SOME

SOME USEFUL RULES FOR DRINKING OF THE CHELTENHAM SPA.

I. WITH regard to the exact *quantity* of water to be taken, it is impoſſible to lay down any general rule. Some conſtitutions are eaſily affected with a ſmall, others with a more copious draught. In every caſe the patient is to adopt the guidance of his own particular conſtitution; and never precipitately to drink more than to occaſion three or four motions daily; for the operation in the bowels is generally found to be in proportion to the doſe.

II. IN beginning to drink the CHELTENHAM WATER, the generally-approved cuſtom is, to take half a pint on going to bed, and the next morning to diſſolve in the like quantity about a quarter or half an ounce of the *ſalts* extracted from the SPA. By this means the body will be gently opened and prepared; after which the water, *taken alone*, may be increaſed about a quarter of a pint at each time of drinking; ſo as to make up the requiſite morning quantity of a pint and half, a quart, or more, till the cathartic operation is effected. It will thus have time and power to diſplay its healing

ing qualities; to ſearch the ſmalleſt veſſels; to blend and circulate with the blood, and to correct the juices in the moſt grateful and ſalutary manner.

III. Under every diſorder for which this water is uſed, it has been adviſed not to take ſo much at firſt as to occaſion purging, but ſimply as a gentle alterative. When thus drunken, a quarter of a pint every fourth hour, ſo as to make up a pint in a day, is ſaid to be ſufficient for a tender conſtitution: the hale and robuſt may extend the doſe in proportion. Thus taken, it is obvious that a longer courſe of drinking may be requiſite; but every thinking invalid will allow, that in caſes of this ſort, impatience, ſcanty uſe, and ſhort trial cannot reaſonably be expected to have the deſired effect. And as this prudent regimen is the ſureſt way of reaping benefit, ſo muſt it certainly be of much more conſequence to the drinker, than the *ſuppoſed* loſs of time; when a matter of ſo eſſential a ſort is concerned as the removal of a malady, and the reſtoration of an enfeebled frame to health, vivacity and vigour.

IV. In

IV. In the *Scurvy*, theſe waters ſhould be taken for five or ſix weeks together, at the Spring-head; or, if that be inconvenient to the patient, then for eight weeks ſucceſſively at a diſtance: and this by reaſon of that part of the efficacy, or *vivida vis*, which the water may have loſt by carriage.

V. In *eryſipelas*, and *inflammations of the eyes*, the CHELTENHAM waters may be uſed at all ſeaſons of the year; and in thoſe diſtempers they ſhould be applied plentifully, as immediate evacuations are requiſite to remove them.

VI. Thoſe invalids of a delicate conſtitution, who have any valuable deſigns to anſwer from theſe waters, ſhould make ſhort and eaſy journies to them, in hot weather eſpecially; and not fatigue themſelves by over-travelling. And when arrived at CHELTENHAM, they ſhould not begin to drink the water for a day or two, till the body is cool, and undiſturbed from the change of place.

LASTLY. It is neceſſary to obſerve rules in *diet*, *exerciſe*, &c. during the courſe of drinking

ing the CHELTENHAM waters; as in the uſe of all other medicinal applications whatſoever. This rule is equally good for the benefit of the invalid, and the credit of the water. Intemperance of every kind militates powerfully againſt them both: and all luxurious indulgence, in thoſe who profeſs themſelves candidates for health, is but acting the ſcene of Penelope's web over again;

"The night unravelling what the day renew'd."

THE moſt eminent phyſicians recommend theſe waters as the beſt preparative for drinking the *Bath* waters.

THE reader will excuſe the length of the above remarks, on an intereſting ſubject; which, conſiſtently with juſtice to the waters themſelves, and to thoſe for whoſe comfort they are deſcribed, the writer knew not how better to abridge from the larger performances of their learned authors.

An eminent phyſician, Dr. Smith of Oxford, uſually reſides here during the ſummer ſeaſon.

SECTION VII.

THE ENVIRONS; RIDES, AND VIEWS.

AT convenient diſtances from the town of CHELTENHAM are many agreeable airings upon the hills, which afford extenſive views of the vale below, and ample proſpects of the adjacent counties, replete with rural elegance and majeſty. Amongſt the principal are the rides to

Charlton-Kings,	1	Preſtbury,	2
Dowdeſwell,	5	Southam,	
Whittington,	5	Haymes,	
Coberley,	4	Biſhop's Cleeve,	4
Winchcombe,	6 or 7	Lechampton,	3
Sudley,		and	
Poſtlip,		Swindon.	1

1. CHARLTON-KINGS, in the Hundred of CHELTENHAM, lies about a mile to the eaſt of that town, and is ſo called to diſtinguiſh it from

from Charlton-Abbats, another village in the neighbourhood, and becauſe at the Norman conqueſt it was part of the royal demeſnes, and made a member of the great manor of CHELTENHAM. This pariſh conſiſts of rich paſture and arable, and ſome wood land. It is watered by three brooks (of which the *Chelt* is one), that unite here, and drive ſeveral corn-mills. It is very advantageouſly ſituated under the Lechampton hills, which ſecure it from the eaſterly winds. The road hither is good, lies rather low, and is well ſhaded. From the Church-yard is a very pleaſing view towards CHELTENHAM, whoſe ſteeple riſing amidſt the trees is a conſiderable addition to the ſcene. The manor of Aſhley in this pariſh is the property of William Prinne, Eſq. whoſe handſome houſe on this pleaſant ſpot is ſeen from the road to CHELTENHAM. Mr. Whithorn has alſo a good houſe and a conſiderable eſtate in Charlton. The church is a flat building, very fair, and in good condition. It has an elegant ſquare embattled tower, with pinnacles, and ſix bells in it, which ſtands in the middle of the building. There are alſo

two chapels on the north and ſouth ſides of the tower, making the form of a croſs.

THE following inſcription, upon an oval braſs plate in the chancel, merits the notice of the benevolent and well-diſpoſed mind:

Dignum laude virum vetat juſtitia mori!

"SAMUEL COOPER of this pariſh, Gentleman, "died the 13th of May, 1743, who by will "gave to the truſtees undermentioned, and "to their ſucceſſors his truſtees for ever, the "rents of his grounds in the ſame pariſh, "called *Cutham Butts* and *Battle Downs*, for "buying books, and teaching *ſix poor Children* "of this pariſh to read, *two* years: at the end "of which time, *ſix* others to be choſen by "the ſaid truſtees, with the privity of the "churchwardens: The overplus to provide "fuel, and *clothe ſix aged or infirm poor perſons*, "not receiving alms of the pariſh. Truſtees, "Robert Gale, ſenior; Edmond Welch; Ed-"ward Gale, Gent^n."

A NEAT

A NEAT pyramidal marble monument is erected in the North Chapel, to the memory of Mrs. Prinne, lady of the gentleman beforementioned; and alſo of Mrs. Hunt, their daughter.

☞ To *Charlton Kings* is a very pleaſant afternoon walk, for tea-drinking parties, whom it were to be wiſhed ſome of the inhabitants would make preparations in their ſhady gardens to accommodate. Their attention to this hint could not fail of encouragement and ſucceſs in the CHELTENHAM ſeaſon.

II. DOWDESWELL is about five miles eaſtward from CHELTENHAM, ſituated on a fine and fertile ſpot of the Coteſwould country. The turnpike road from Glouceſter to Oxford leads through this pariſh: and at *Frogmill* and *The Croſs Hands* (ſometimes called Kilkenny Houſe), are pretty good accommodations and refreſhments if neceſſary for parties in their rides this way. 'Tis uſual for thoſe who have not their own carriages, on coming to CHELTENHAM, to take poſt chaiſe from Frogmill thither, the Glouceſter vehicles ſetting them

them down at this place, as the next ſtage to CHELTENHAM. The *Croſs Hands* is a neat public houſe, built upon an eminence, and much admired for its beautiful ſouthern proſpect, compoſing a fine natural amphitheatre of wood and lawn. Cloſe by the houſe, on the right hand, leading from Frogmill toward Glouceſter, is a good ſummer bridle-road to and from CHELTENHAM, through Dowdeſwell and Charlton-Kings. The direction-poſt here is about five miles from CHELTENHAM, and this road ſaves two or three miles to the rider, beſides furniſhing him with a variety of view.

MRS. TRACY has a handſome ſeat and park at *Sandiwell* in Upper Dowdeſwell, within this pariſh. The manſion was built in the middle of the laſt century, and the grounds laid out by Henry Brett, Eſq. who ſome time after ſold the ſame to Lord Conway; from whoſe ſon, the then Earl of Hertford, it came by purchaſe to Thomas Tracy, Eſq. late huſband of the lady abovementioned *.

* For a neat view of this eſtate, ſee the cut in Sir Rob. Atkyns's Hiſtory of Glouceſterſhire.

On

On removing the old houſe at Sandiwell, and digging drains for the conveniency of the new one, ſeveral leaden coffins of great antiquity were found, ſuppoſed to have contained perſons of conſiderable note. The bodies lay north and ſouth, but it has never been diſcovered whoſe they were. This pariſh has certainly been the theatre of ſeveral military atchievements, as appears from the camps; veſtiges of which ſtill remain viſible. One of them, on the ſummit of Dowdeſwell-Hill, called *The Caſtles*, is ſuppoſed to be of Roman conſtruction.

William Rogers, Eſq. has alſo a pleaſant ſeat in Upper Dowdeſwell, with a large eſtate adjacent; as hath Mr. Van Notten, a merchant of London, purchaſed by him of the family of *Rich*, who long poſſeſſed it.

Dowdeswell Church, a rectory of about 200l. a year, is in the uſual form of a croſs, with a ſmall ſpire in the middle. Mr. Rogers abovementioned is the patron; and the Rev. Mr. Baker the incumbent. The rides hereabout, through ſhady lanes and vallies, and

over

over the gently-ſloping hills, are exceedingly agreeable, and at every hundred yards exhibit ſome new and pleaſing ſcene.

III. WHITTINGTON, near five miles to the ſouth-eaſt of CHELTENHAM, is a ſmall pariſh, in the diſtrict of Coteſwould, conſiſting more of arable than paſture ground: the village is ſheltered from the north by ſome very lofty and well cultivated hills, whoſe verdant and fertile tops are adorned with plantations of firs. The river Coln, a very pretty trout ſtream, riſes with a ſmall head at this place, and growing more conſiderable as it proceeds, gives name to ſeveral villages through which it paſſes on its courſe to Fairford; (about twelve or fourteen miles from CHELTENHAM) where it mixes with the Thames.

MRS. TRACY of Sandiwell is the preſent Lady of the Manor of Whittington; and has right of preſentation to the living, a rectory of about 200l. per annum. The church is ſmall; has two chancels north and ſouth; an aile on the ſouth ſide, and a low wooden turret in the middle.

In the ſouth chancel is a very elegant monument of fine marble, exhibiting a vaſe, which ſupports an urn; and upon the front is the ſubjoined inſcription:

To the beloved Memory
of Thomas Tracy, Eſq. of Sandiwell,
in Glouceſterſhire,
Youngeſt ſon of John Tracy, Eſq. of Stanway
in the ſaid county;
who deceaſed June 24th, 1770, aged 53.

This excellent Man
was diſtinguiſhed in private life
By an uncommon ſweetneſs of temper,
and benevolence of heart;
And poſſeſſed in an eminent degree thoſe ſocial
and amiable virtues,
Which not only procured him the love of
his relations and intimate friends,
But the univerſal eſteem of all
his acquaintance.
He was unanimouſly choſen by his country
in two ſucceeding parliaments, to repreſent
The county of Glouceſter;
Which important truſt he diſcharged

with the ſtricteſt integrity
and
diſintereſted zeal.
He married *Mary*, only daughter and heireſs of
Sir *William Dodwell*, Knight;
And had by her one only ſon, *Dodwell Tracy*,
A youth, from his amiable diſpoſition
and diſtinguiſhed parts,
of the moſt promiſing hopes.
But theſe, alas! were blaſted, when, in the
flower of his age, he was ſnatched
from the arms of his afflicted parents and friends,
Jan. 11, 1768, at Paris, on his return
from his travels,
In the 21ſt year of his age.
Mary, their lamenting Wife and Mother,
placed this mournful teſtimony of
her tendereſt affection
To her dear Huſband,
and
Her beloved Son!

IV. COBERLEY lies about four miles ſouth of CHELTENHAM, and affords a circumſtance of curioſity well worthy the traveller's attention.

IN

In this parish, close to the high road, on the left hand leading from CHELTENHAM to Glocester, the streams which feed the River Churn take their rise from the hollow rocky sides of the adjacent hills. The place is denominated the *Seven Wells*, and is deservedly considered as the *Head of the Thames*, "the great "father of the British floods!" being the highest and most remote source of that noble river. The united waters of these pure springs are so copious, as to drive a corn-mill a little below, and shape their course through Colesbourn, Rendcombe, North Cerney, and so on to Cirencester, &c. In another place * I observed, that from Crickly-Hill, which lies partly in this parish, there is a most astonishing view of the country towards Glocester. Another very extensive prospect presents itself from the lofty summit of Pinswell near Coberley; stretching as far as to the city of Worcester on one hand, and almost to Marlborough in Wiltshire on the other; objects, which lie at least sixty miles asunder. The name of Pinswell (from *Pen*, the top, and *well*, a spring of water), is exactly descriptive

* Page 9.

of its ſituation, on the brow of a high hill, above the reſt of the village. A perennial ſpring guſhing from hence runs down a ſteep deſcent, and joins the waters of the Churn at the Manor-houſe of Coberley.

V. WINCHCOMBE, a market-town, was formerly of great note. It lies about ſix or ſeven miles north from CHELTENHAM; near eleven miles S.E. from Tewkſbury, and ſixteen miles N.E. from Glouceſter. This place was anciently called *Wincelcombe*, from a Saxon word which ſignifies a *corner*, and *comb*, a valley; becauſe it lay in a nook or corner of the vale, encompaſſed with hills, except on the north-eaſt quarter. The road hither from CHELTENHAM leads through Preſtbury, Southam, and to the left of Poſtlip; and is in ſome parts ſteep, rough, and unpleaſant. In its preſent ſtate, which cries out for amendment, it will not do for wheel-carriages of the genteeler ſort; and even the farmers' draught-horſes are to be pitied, much more than the owners, for dragging through it! The avenues to the town of Winchcombe are neglected with an equal inſenſibility to common convenience and obvious

obvious ſelf-intereſt. But the views from the heights around, of wide extent and great beauty, make ample amends to the perſevering traveller on horſeback. The hills are generally in the ſummer ſeaſon covered with ſheep. The air is keen, clear, and bracing to the nerves and ſpirits; and the majeſtically expanded ſcenes below are rich, and form a delightful variety.

In ancient times, as we juſt obſerved, this was a place of conſiderable repute. Its conſequence aroſe from an abbey founded in the 8th century by Kenulfe King of Mercia, who had a palace here; for the founding of religious houſes, in the earlier ages of chriſtianity, occaſioned a great reſort of people, and had an effect upon population in ſome places ſimilar to that of the increaſe of trade afterwards in others.

Our celebrated antiquarian, *Leland*, informs us that *Winchcombe* was once a walled town; and that a great part of it ſtood on the ſide of the river next to Sudeley caſtle. Hence it is plain that the *Iſborne*, which waters the foot of

of the preſent town, ran anciently through the middle of the old one: "Soe that of olde tyme," ſaith our Author, "it was a mighty large "towne." In thoſe days it was defended by a fortreſs or caſtle, which ſtood near the ſouth ſide of the preſent pariſh church, where now are only left ſome humble cottages and gardens. Even in Leland's time, however, we find that it had fallen much to decay; and as it firſt roſe to eminence by means of the monaſtery there eſtabliſhed, ſo after the ſuppreſſion of that houſe it ran ſtill more rapidly to ruin. It now conſiſts of two ſtreets croſſing each other; the one leading northward to Tewkſbury and Eveſham; the other,—which is by much the moſt conſiderable, and might be rendered ſtill more ſo,—runs on the eaſt towards Campden, and on the weſt to CHELTENHAM and Glouceſter. There is no high road through it; conſequently, though a market-town, and capable of much improvement, it is but little frequented, except by thoſe who have immediate concerns with the inhabitants.

WINCHCOMBE is a borough by preſcription, governed by two bailiffs, and their aſſiſtants, not

not exceeding ten in number; and out of the twelve the bailiffs are taken by rotation, and ſworn into their office annually at the court leet.

IT is a remarkable circumſtance, though little known, that *Tobacco*, originally brought into our kingdom by Sir John Hawkins in the year 1565, *was firſt planted on Engliſh ground in this pariſh;* and yielded a conſiderable produce and profit to the inhabitants, till they were reſtrained from the cultivation of it by an act of parliament, paſſed in the 12th year of Charles II.

THE church of Winchcombe merits a ſtranger's notice. It is a large noble edifice, of the cathedral form, with a handſome aile on each ſide covered with lead; and has a very ſpacious chancel, and a fine lofty tower at the weſt end. The pulpit is made out of a ſingle ſolid ſtone, well carved; and both the church and tower are adorned with battlements and pinnacles, in the beſt ſtyle of our pious and venerable anceſtors. All round this building are placed a number of ſtrangely groteſque figures in ſtone, ſome droll, and others monſtrous to behold.

behold. They are very ſimilar to thoſe in Oxford, which muſt have ſtruck the particular attention of every one who has viſited Magdalen College; and which, while ſome aſſert that they are merely the vagaries of the maſon, are ſaid by others, with much more probability, to be emblematical of the various virtues and vices of human nature, and to contain a complete though chimerical ſyſtem of academic and religious diſcipline *.

THE right honourable Thomas Charles Lord Viſcount Tracy is the patron of Winchcombe, and the preſent incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Roberts.

IN the reign of Henry VI. William de Winchcombe the then abbot, deſigned to erect a pariſh church at the end of the Abbey, now demoliſhed; and he finiſhed the eaſt part in his life time. The pariſhioners began the body of the building, towards which they had collected

* See the *Oxford Guide*, under "Magdalen College;" and particularly the remarks on this head from Reeks's *Oedipus Magdalenenſis*, which, however well or ill-grounded, are learned and ingenious.

two hundred pounds; but that *not being ſufficient*, Ralph Boteler, Lord Sudley, finiſhed the work; after which it was dedicated to St. Peter,—and this is the pariſh church.

HERE are two annual fairs held on the 6th of May, and 28th of July. The market is on Saturday; and as the town is ſeated in a rich vale, the fairs are uſually well ſupplied with cattle and draught-horſes; but the market is very inconſiderable.

About two miles north-eaſt from Winchcombe are the venerable remains of *Hayles Abbey*, erected in the year 1246, by Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, and brother to King Henry III. in conſequence of a vow which he had made at ſea in an hour of imminent danger. To this place he brought twenty monks of the Ciſtertian order from Beaulieu in Hampſhire. It was a mitred abbey; and Stevens in his Monaſticon, from a liſt of abbots ſummoned to parliament, informs us that the abbots of this houſe, and of Hales Owen in Shropſhire were uſually ſummoned together. The Abbot's houſe was a large hand-

ſome building, but is now ſo fallen to decay as to be inhabitable for a few perſons only. The arms of the founder were originally fixed in the hall window, and around them inſcribed, in old characters, "RICHARDUS PLANTAGENET, SEMPER AUGUSTUS, FUNDATOR NOSTER." Theſe, with other painted glaſs of the windows of this houſe, have been lately removed to the hall windows at Toddington, the ſeat of Lord Viſcount Tracy; together with a noble old Chimney-piece from hence, placed in the great hall there. What now remains of the abbey is ſituated in a rich paſture ground of five or ſix acres. The north-eaſt ſide of the cloiſter, in length about 35 yards, is tolerably entire. The outer walls of the other three ſides of the cloiſter are in part ſtanding; and there are three or four doors leading out of the north-eaſt ſide to the place where the church ſtood, of which nothing now remains but part of the foundation. A large ancient building ſtands near the ſcite of the abbey-houſe: it was formerly uſed for the reception of pilgrims and devout perſons viſiting the monaſtery; and, till very lately, has been kept open as an inn ever ſince the reformation. The inhabitants aſſert

aſſert that there is a ſubterraneous paſſage from this place to Coſcombe, which was called "the Abbot's Lodging." One Freeman, of Didbrook in this neighbourhood, declared to an old man at the abbey-houſe, that he went far into it, till he came to a pair of iron gates which ſtopped his progreſs; that the top is handſomely arched over with ſtone, and in the walls are niches and ſeats all along: the mouth or opening he ſaid was in the orchard near the houſe. Richard Earl of Cornwall was buried in Hayles Church-yard, A. D. 1272. His lady in 1261; and Edmond their ſon, Earl of Cornwall, anno 1300. His funeral was performed with great pomp, King Edward the Firſt, and a great number of the nobility attending the ſolemnity; ſo that this church contained the aſhes of a king, a queen, and their ſon.

VI. SUDLEY, or "The South Place," is ſo called from its ſituation with reſpect to Winchcombe, which lies a little northward of it. This moſt pleaſant pariſh forms a groupe of delightful ſcenery! It conſiſts of rich meadow- and paſture grounds, intermixed with wood-

lands; and occupies the north ſide of that vaſt chain of hills, which running through the county, divides the deep vale from the high Coteſwoulds of Glouceſterſhire. There are but about five families in the whole pariſh; yet I flatter myſelf,—at leaſt I hope,—that the reader will forgive my fondneſs for the ſpot, if I think it deſerves a peculiar mention.

Full many a gem, of pureſt ray ſerene,
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to bluſh unſeen,
And waſte its ſweetneſs on the deſert air! GRAY.

SUDLEY, generally pronounced *Sudeley*, has been the place of reſidence of great perſons from very early ages: theſe, as proprietors of the noble ſcene, took ſucceſſively the name of *De Sudley*, after the manner of ancient times.

IN this ſpot are the beautiful remains of an ancient CASTLE, built, as it is ſuppoſed, about the time of King Henry VI. who began his reign in 1422. Ralph, Lord Sudley, had ſerved as High-Admiral of the Britiſh fleet, and with the ſpoils he had gained in the wars with France, erected this *Caſtle* upon the ſcite of an old

old one built in King Stephen's reign. One part of the new ſtructure was called *Portmere's Tower*, after the name of the French Admiral, who, as tradition informs us, was taken priſoner by Lord Sudley; to whom the King gave Portmere's ranſom, which was ſuppoſed to have been nearly ſufficient for building the whole caſtle.

Thus happily neſted as in a rock, the Baron might well be ſuppoſed to enjoy a quiet ſhelter; but, ſo fluctuating it ſeems was the then ſtate of public affairs, that the ſubject was ſafe neither in his perſon nor his property, and the favourite of one reign was generally obnoxious to the ſucceeding. Ralph, Lord Sudley, was ſuſpected of having a ſtrong attachment to the Lancaſtrian family; and King Edward IV. attaining the crown, cauſed him to be apprehended at his caſtle, from whence he was carried to London. On coming to the top of Sudley-Hill, and like a ſecond Orpheus looking back, he exclaimed, "O Sudley Caſtle! thou art "the traitor, not I;" apprehending the King's deſign of ſeizing this Naboth's Vineyard, although he had committed no act that could legally ſubject his eſtate to confiſcation. Accordingly

it

it ſoon turned out: he found himſelf obliged to ſell it to the King; and conſtables to ſecure it were afterwards appointed by the crown.

Sir John Bruges, or Brydges, was conſtituted conſtable of Sudley Caſtle, 29 Henry VIII. and had a new grant of office in the 34th year of the ſame reign, in which Edmund, his ſon and heir, then one of the Eſquires of the King's body, was joined in truſt with them. He afterwards obtained a grant in fee both of the manor and caſtle. In 1554, Queen Mary created him a peer of Great Britain, by the title of *Baron Chandos* of *Sudley*; and the caſtle and manor belonging to it continued in his family for many years.

At the breaking out of the civil war in the reign of Charles I. this caſtle was garriſoned with about ſixty men of the King's party, under the command of Captain Brydges. In the evening of the 1ſt of January, 1642, Col. Maſſie, at the head of three hundred muſketeers, with two *ſakers*, or pieces of artillery, from Glouceſter, and aſſiſted by eighty horſe and four companies of

of dragoons from Cirenceſter, drew up before Sudley Caſtle. They diſcharged ſeveral ſhot with ſome execution: and the next morning preparations were made for a general aſſault; when a party of horſe and dragoons poſſeſſing themſelves of a garden cloſe to the caſtle, ſet fire to ſome hay and ſtraw, under the ſmoak of which the ordnance was brought cloſe up undiſcovered. The garriſon then beat a parley, and ſurrendered, on condition to return to their own houſes, and never to ſerve againſt the parliament. Soon after, Cirenceſter being taken by Prince Rupert, the Caſtle again fell into the King's hands, and for a long time greatly interrupted the intercourſe between the garriſons placed by parliament at Glouceſter and London, through Warwick, which at that period was the only way of communication; ſo that even a ſingle ſcout could not paſs without extreme hazard: but in the year 1644, the King's army having retreated from Oxford before Sir William Waller, the latter ordered Maſſie, governor of Glouceſter, to meet him before *Sudley Caſtle*. Maſſie came up firſt, and fell in with a party of the garriſon, who retreated within the walls after a ſlight ſkirmiſhing;

miſhing; and Sir William Waller arriving within a few hours, ſummoned Sir William Morton, the governor of the caſtle, who valiantly refuſed to ſurrender. At this criſis an accidental ſhot taking off the head of the chief gunner in the caſtle*, is thought to have intimidated the common ſoldiery; and though the governor was an active man in the King's ſervice, and had great reputation for his valour and general underſtanding, he gave up the caſtle and himſelf to the parliament, without even providing for the indemnity of his perſon. In this ſtrenuous conflict nine captains and twenty-two ſubaltern officers were made priſoners of war, and a quantity of cloth was found there by the victors, to the value of four thouſand pounds.

At that time it is ſuppoſed the caſtle was entire: but a great part of it has been ſince ſhamefully demoliſhed; and, too probably, much more of its venerable walls would have ſhared the ſame rude fate, but for the more liberal ſpirit of Mr. Lucas its preſent poſſeſſor, in whoſe

* Marks of the cannon-ſhot through the walls are ſtill viſible, both on the caſtle, and ruins of the chapel adjacent.

hands

hands it is likely to preserve all that time shall spare of its former honours. The present remains shew it to have been a very beautiful building; and truly they do honour to its noble founder. According to Leland, the windows of the hall in his time had beryls in them, instead of glass *.

The fine ruins of Sudley Castle, in their present state, are well delineated in an elegant engraving by Messrs. N. and S. Buck, executed in 1738, and inserted in Rudder's new history Gloucester, p. 717.

There is nothing remaining of the church except the shell, or outward walls, which the above-named ingenious artists have annexed to their plate; from which it appears to have been a very elegant Gothic building, in a superior taste, surrounded with battlements and pinnacles. The writer of this pamphlet beheld

* The *beryl* is a kind of precious stone, of a deeper and brighter red, and more transparent than the common cornelian, though something similar: Very possibly, however, Leland might be mistaken, as glass is frequently seen painted or stained of the same colour as the beryl.

them with a peculiar pleaſure; and even the fine fruit trees, incloſed, and loaded, within its walls, ſtruck him with ſome degree of pity for its great decline. The country all round this ſweet ſpot will amply repay the trouble of any viſitor.

I MUST not omit, for the gratification of the curious reader, that Queen CATHARINE PARR, daughter of Sir WILLIAM PARR, Knight; widow of Henry the VIII. his *ſixth*, and *laſt wife*; afterwards better married to Thomas Seymour, Baron of Sudley, and Lord High Admiral of England, died here in childbed, September, 5, A. D. 1548; and was buried with much funeral pomp in the chapel of Sudley Caſtle. The following inſcription for the epitaph of this celebrated perſonage was compoſed by Dr. Parkhurſt, one of her Ladyſhip's chaplains.

" INCOMPA-

" INCOMPARABILIS Fœminæ CATHARINÆ, nuper Angliæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Reginæ, Dominæ meæ clementiſſimæ,

EPITAPHIUM, 1548.

Hoc Regina novo dormit CATHARINA ſepulchro,
Sexus fœminei flos, honor atque decus!
Hæc fuit HENRICO Conjux fidiſſima Regi,
Quem poſtquàm è vivis Parca tuliſſet atrox,
Thomæ Seymero (cui tu, Neptune, tridentem
Porrigis) eximio nupſerat illa Viro.
Huic peperit natam: A partu cum ſeptimus orbem
Sol illuſtrâſſet, Mors truculenta necat.
Defunctam madidis *Famuli* deflemus ocellis,
Humeſcat triſtis *terra Britannica* genas.
Nos infelices mœror conſumit acerbus;
Inter cœleſtes gaudet at *Illa* Choras.

ENGLISHED.

The EPITAPH of the incomparable Lady CATHARINE, late Queen of England, France, and Ireland, my moſt indulgent Miſtreſs, 1548.

In this new tomb the royal CATHARINE lies,
Flower of her ſex, renowned, great and wiſe!
A wife, by every nuptial virtue known,
And faithful partner once of HENRY's throne.
To *Seymour* next her plighted hand ſhe yields,
Seymour, who Neptune's trident juſtly weilds;

From him a beauteous daughter blest her bed,
An infant copy of her parent's charms;
When now seven days this tender flower had bloom'd,
Heaven, kind in all, the mother's soul resum'd.
Great CATHARINE's merit in our grief appears,
While fair Britannia dews her cheeks with tears.
Our loyal breasts with rising sighs are torne;
With Saints She triumphs,—we with mortals mourn!

THERE is only a small aile of the ancient building now occupied, which is still called the Chapel, and where divine service is performed once a fortnight.

VI. POSTLIP is on the road to Winchcombe, and a hamlet of that parish. It is part of the estate of the Earl of Coventry, and has been in his family for many years. His Lordship has a large decent house here, well situated on the side of a fair rising ground. The chapel is lately converted to the purposes of manufactory, &c. and the whole premises are now occupied by by Mr. Durham, one of the most considerable paper makers in the kingdom.

VII. PRESTBURY is about two miles north of CHELTENHAM, and in the hundred of the same.

It

It lies partly in the vale; and the circumjacent country conſiſts of a rich paſture ſoil, with a ſmall proportion of tillage, though the corn produced here is very good. Another part of the pariſh ſtretches up the weſtern ſide of that majeſtic range of hills, which ſeparates the vale from the Cotſwould country. The river Swiliate, riſing out of Preſtbury-Hill, paſſes by Swindon, Elmſtone and Teddington, and empties its ſtream into the Upper Avon, a little below Tewkſbury. Here are alſo ſeveral other good ſprings iſſuing from the uplands. Many of the company at CHELTENHAM reſort hither to tea-drinking, or as a pleaſant evening walk; for which, like *Charlton*, it is very well adapted, and the good people are decent and obliging.

In Henry III's time, *Preſtbury* was a market-town: how long it continued ſuch is uncertain. Perhaps its vicinity to CHELTENHAM and Winchcombe might render the charter ineffectual or needleſs; and their loſs of the patronage of the Biſhop of Hereford, from whom the manor was taken at the reformation, ſoon reduced the town to the condition of a country

try

try village, in which it hath ever ſince continued.

This place has had ſome ſhare in ancient military tranſactions, as its name *Preſtbury*, or "the Prieſt's Camp," implies; not that the encampment here made was by religious men; but the manor in which it lay took its preſent appellation from becoming the property of the church of Hereford. The remains of the camp are ſtill viſible in ſome places, but whether of Saxon conſtruction or Roman is uncertain *. To the eaſt of Preſtbury is an ancient ſeat named *Hewlats*, which lies partly in this, and partly in CHELTENHAM pariſh. It forms a very agreeable object at a diſtance, and commands an extenſive proſpect over the vale towards the river Severn. The proprietor of this ſpot is Thomas Baghott, Eſq. a bachelor, whoſe

* In the laſt century, during the great civil war, Col. Maſſie, governor of Glouceſter, placed a garriſon of 150 men in a ſtrong houſe at this village, to protect the market of that city from depredations. It alſo ſerved to keep up a communication between the garriſons of the parliament at Glouceſter and Warwick, and to check thoſe of the king in Sudley Caſtle.

family

family it is ſaid have reſided in the village upwards of four hundred years.

N. B. The road to Preſtbury is a very great reproach to thoſe, whoſe charge and duty it is to keep it in far better repair! At preſent it is really almoſt impaſſable, even for theſe peaſants.

VIII. Southam is a hamlet, or large tithing of the pariſh of Biſhop's-Cleeve. Here Thomas Baghott Delabere, Eſq. a bachelor, related to the gentleman laſt mentioned, has an ancient ſeat and fine eſtate. The houſe ſtands very pleaſantly in the Summer ſeaſon, though not conſpicuous but on a near approach; being, as Milton phraſes it, "boſom'd high in tufted trees." It is ſaid to be one of the greateſt curioſities in the county of Glouceſter; a low building, but ſpacious, in the ſtyle of Henry IV. or about that period. The hall floor is paved with painted bricks, brought from Hayles Abbey, which once ſtood in this neighbourhood, and ſoon after the diſſolution of that venerable manſion. There are many curious devices upon them of different kinds, containing the names

names and rebuſs of the names of the abbots, *Ford* and *Melton*. The bricks are in exceedingly good preſervation, and deſerve to be ſo kept, as valuable remains of the abbey to which they belonged. The hall is likewiſe decorated with great numbers of eſcutcheons and arms, amongſt which eſpecially are thoſe of Richard Duke of Cornwall, as King of the Romans, and founder of Hayles Abbey; of the Delaberes, and of other ancient families. There are alſo in this houſe many paintings of eminent perſons who flouriſhed in former times; particularly a whole length figure of Edward the VIth, done upon oak, which is much admired: ſome of the other pieces are injured by time. Mr. Delabere abovementioned is the preſent lord of the manor of Southam, whoſe anceſtors came into England with King William the Conqueror; and may a family ſo reſpectable be long continued to their country.

IX. HAYMES is of itſelf a manor, lying under Winchcombe Hill, in the tithing of Southam. Sir Will. Strachan, Bart. of Nova Scotia, a few years ſince built a very handſome ſeat here, upon

upon an eminence, commanding a delightful proſpect over the vale of Eveſham, terminated by Malvern and Abberley Hills in the county of Worceſter. This houſe and the adjacent village make a good object to the left, on the road to Winchcombe.

X. BISHOP'S-CLEEVE is about four miles to the north of CHELTENHAM, and lies near the Tewkſbury Road. Its ſituation on the ſide of the hill very probably gave occaſion to its name of *Cleeve* or *Cliff*, which in the Anglo-Saxon language ſignifies a high rock, or ſteep aſcent.

MANY camps, intrenchments and fortifications have been traced out in various parts of the Coteſwould country, but no where more than on the verge of thoſe hills; ſituations, which ſeem to have been choſen upon two accounts; as being leſs liable to ſurprize or attack, and commanding a large extent of country below, where the oppoſite party could ſcarce ſtir without being obſerved. On the edge of Cleeve-Hill, or as it is commonly called *Cleeve-Cloud*, is a large double intrenchment called "The

Camps," extending three hundred and fifty yards along the ſummit of the rock, in the form of a creſcent, and inacceſſible on every ſide but the front. The name of *Cleeve-Cloud* ſeems to have been given to this edge of the hill on account of its bold and lofty appearance, often hazy when viewed from the vale below; and thus anſwering our poet's deſcription of

> Mountains, on whoſe barren breaſt
> The labouring clouds do often reſt.

FROM the foot of Cleeve-Cloud, to the top of the eminence where the camp is deſcribed, although little more than half a meaſured mile, there is an aſcent of 630 feet perpendicular.

THE inhabitants of this part of the country have been agreeably amuſed with the expectation of coal being to be found in Long Wood, within the pariſh of Biſhop's-Cleeve: the proprietor is now ſearching for that uſeful foſſil; and both for his own ſake, and the general good of the neighbourhood, he juſtly merits the wiſh of ſpeedy ſucceſs.

XI. LECHAMPTON lies about three miles diſtant from CHELTENHAM on the ſouth; and probably

bably took its name from the vaſt rock on the brow of the hill, viſible from the country round; *Lech* in the Britiſh language ſignifying *ſtone*; of which great quantities are dug out of the bare hollow ſpot called "Lechampton Quars." Near half the pariſh conſiſts of dairy farms, extending towards the vale; the other part ſtretches eaſtward, over a ſtupendous ridge of hills, often viſited by company on horſeback, and ſometimes in carriages, to enjoy the Sublime and Beautiful of rural excurſion. From hence is a large and very intereſting proſpect over the vale, and the river Severn, above and below the city of Glouceſter.

On the declivity of this hill, fronting the town of Cheltenham, is a fair-looking, ſpacious manſion, now inhabited by Mr. Henry Norwood, a bachelor, lord of the manor, patron of the living; a gentleman of good fortune, and deſcended from the very ancient and honourable family of the Norwoods of Kent. An anceſtor of this gentleman, not many years ſince, made great and valuable alterations in the form of the building: the grounds and gardens have heretofore been a

charming ſpot, and indulgent nature hath ſhaped the ſcenery around them moſt delightfully; but the writer experienced a peculiar diſappointment, to find the premiſes ſo wonderouſly neglected, and running with uninterrupted haſte into weeds and diſorder.

> Iſpa Pales agros, atque ipſe reliquit Apollo:
> Infelix lolium, et ſteriles dominantur avenæ:
> Pro molli viola, pro purpureo narciſſo,
> Carduus et ſpinis ſurgit paliurus acutis.

Which, for the benefit of the Engliſh reader, is thus tranſlated by an able hand.

> "I paſs'd by his garden, and ſaw the wild brier,
> The thorn and the thiſtle grow broader and higher."

A VIEW of the ancient building and ſcite at Lechampton, then well laid out, is given on copper-plate in Sir Robert Atkyns's ancient and preſent ſtate of Glouceſterſhire, p. 276. The church here has a handſome ſpire, and the Rev. Mr. Draper is the preſent incumbent.

XII. SWINDON is about a mile north-weſt of CHELTENHAM, and lies in the vale, on the banks of the little river Swilliate. The village

is

is ſmall, but the neighbourhood around it is very pictureſque, and the ride agreeable.

It would have been eaſy to enlarge the liſt of the pleaſurable excurſions for many miles round, and to take in Glouceſter, Tewkſbury, the Malvern Hills, Worceſter, &c; but theſe do not ſo properly come in under the head of airings. Suffice it to obſerve, of thoſe above mentioend, and others within diſtance, that the proſpects they afford are ſo variegated, as to preſent ſomething new to the ſpectator every time he viſits them.

SECTION

SECTION VIII.

IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS.

THE old Playhouſe, which has been lately fitted up and beautified, is neat, but not ſufficiently ſpacious to ſeat a large audience, ſo that on particular nights many are obliged to forego the amuſement of the theatre. Plays are here acted thrice a week, Tueſday, Thurſday, and Saturday during the ſeaſon, by a company of comedians chiefly from Worceſter; who, without aiming at elegance of ſcenery and decorations, exert their beſt endeavours to deſerve approbation, and accordingly meet with encouragement. The ſubſcription is a guinea for eighteen nights, or two ſhillings the pit, and one ſhilling gallery, each evening. It has been propoſed to form a ſociety of gentlemen, and erect a new and commodious theatre by ſubſcription; each ſubſcriber to receive a proportionable ſhare of the neat rent, according to his depoſit.

THE

THE Avenues from the town to the Long Room are lighted on ball nights. The Street alſo has been ſome time furniſhed with *lamps*; though often neglected by thoſe, whoſe own intereſts, and a polite regard to viſitors at the Spa, will it is hoped induce them to remedy the defect.

THE Pavement of the ſtreet is undergoing a thorough repair, on a neat conſtruction; and is carried on with ſpirit, at a conſiderable expence to the pariſhioners.

THE *Subſcriptions* to the Long Room are,

For each Gentleman or Lady	0	5	0
To the Muſic, for the ſeaſon	0	10	6
To ditto, on each ball night, by the Gentlemen who dance only	0	2	6
For the Newſpapers	0	2	6

THE public breakfaſting is at the Long Room every Monday morning at ten o'clock, during the ſeaſon; each perſon pays one ſhilling. The balls begin at eight in the evening, and country dances cloſe them at eleven: they are conſtantly kept from Midſummer to Michaelmas.

EACH

EACH perſon who drinks tea, or a diſh of chocolate, pays ſixpence;—ladies who dance excepted, the gentlemen their partners paying for them.

THE hire of a ſedan-chair to the rooms, well, playhouſe, or on a viſiting party to any houſe in the town, is ſixpence; and the ſame on return.

THE LONDON POST TO CHELTENHAM,

Goes out	*Comes in*
Monday evening, at 10.	Monday,
Wedneſday noon, at 12.	Thurſday,
Saturday evening, at 10.	Saturday,

} morning.

THE CROSS-POST TO AND FROM GLOUCESTER,

Goes out	*Comes in*
Sunday afternoon, at 4	Monday,
Wedneſday } night.	Thurſday,
Friday } night.	Saturday,

} Afternoon.

A STAGE COACH, holding ſix, and a diligence carrying three paſſengers, ſet out every evening at ſix o'clock, Sunday excepted: The coach goes

goes from the Bolt and Tun, Fleet-Street, London; and the diligence from the Swan with two Necks in Lad-lane, and proceed to Glouceſter. The coach fare is a guinea, and that of the diligence one pound four ſhillings: they ſtop to change horſes at Frogmill, ſeven miles from CHELTENHAM; and from thence paſſengers are readily accommodated with good poſt chaiſes to CHELTENHAM at a ſmall expence.

A STAGE-WAGGON goes to and from CHELTENHAM and London once a week. Sets off on Friday morning at eleven from Snow-Hill, London, and reaches CHELTENHAM Tueſday evening about eight. Alſo ſets out from hence on Monday morning at ſix o'clock, and gets to London about three on Thurſday afternoon.

WE before noticed the propoſals and plan for building ſome *new Lodging Houſes* *, which, as being equally practicable and neceſſary, we doubt not may be ſoon effected; and if the treaty here talked of, with a noble lord, for a houſe to be erected as his reſidence near the

* See page 29.

well takes place, other improvements of a ſimilar kind can then need neither ſanction nor motive.

THE idea of a *Navigable Canal* to be cut from this town to the river Severn, between Glouceſter and Tewkſbury, is a buſineſs of much wider extent. It has been frequently the topic of diſcourſe in this part of the country; and a ſubſcription is formed, at a guinea each perſon, for taking the proper levels, and delineating a plan of the courſe of that navigation, to be handſomely engraved on copper-plate for the ſubſcribers, and others who may be inclined to adopt the plan. Whether it may take effect or not, in this improving age, is very uncertain: ſhould it ſucceed, the work muſt undoubtedly prove an expenſive one; againſt which conſideration, however, the certainty of many and great public advantages from water-freight may be fairly oppoſed. At preſent, the object is merely the child of ſpeculation and poſſibility; and the returns of profit have not yet been ſufficiently elucidated to ſhew the expediency of the execution.

THE

THE following lines, ſaid to have been the production of a native of the place, ſeem naturally to fall in here, as a ſuitable cloſe to the CHELTENHAM GUIDE.

THE PRAISES OF CHELTENHAM WELL.

BENEATH kind CERES' riſing hills,
Behold the vale ſo ſweet,
Which FLORA with her beauties fills,
Where HEALTH and PLEASURE meet!
Where noble lords and knights repair,
And ladies of renown,
To taſte the ſoft ſalubrious air
That breathes round CHELT'NHAM town.

While muſic's power enchants the glades,
And charms each liſtening ear,
Amidſt th' adjacent ſtately ſhades
What brilliant crowds appear!

Where oft from ſtubborn ails they're freed,
As thouſands joyful tell:
Then ſay, what *Spa* can e'er exceed
Fair CHELT'NHAM's ſacred Well?

When learned doctors have in vain
Exerted all their ſkill,
To ſoothe their patient in his pain,
Or cure each languid ill;
Though of their means they tried the chief,
Yet all have fruitleſs fell;
Till recommended for relief
To lovely CHELT'NHAM's WELL.

What matchleſs pleaſures here are found!
Where the aſpiring trees
Diffuſe a cool refreſhment round,
Inviting every breeze:
The cryſtal, purling ſtreamlet nigh
Exulting ſeems to flow;
O then, what joys with theſe can vie,
Or bleſſings ſought below!

But ſee! another bleſt retreat,
A conſecrated ſhade;
Where neither rain, nor dog-ſtar heat,
Can touch the ſwain or maid!
The friendly ſhade fair limes compoſe,
Whoſe branches well unite:
And monarchs ſure might envy thoſe,
Who ſhare the calm delight.

Let ſome the joys of LONDON's town,
And courtly pomps admire;
Or wreathe at BATH ſoft pleaſure's crown,
If ſuch ambition fire:
Indulge *me*, Heavens! I aſk no more,
On this dear ſpot to dwell;
And taſte of Health th' untainted ſtore,
That flows round CHELT'NHAM WELL!

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

THE following letters lately came to hand, and appear to have been inſerted in the Morning Poſt of the ſixth and ſixteenth of September, 1780, by ſome, who thought differently on the ſubject. Had they come in time, they might more properly have been noticed under the IVth Section, page 30.

LETTER I.

MR. EDITOR,

I AM juſt returned from a little tour through the weſt of England. Amongſt the number of places I viſited, CHELTENHAM in Glouceſterſhire detained me ſome days, being a town now growing into repute, from the great increaſe of company this year, who go to drink the mineral ſpa water. I ſhall trouble

trouble you with a laconic ſketch of the town and its inhabitants, which may perhaps be of ſervice to thoſe who frequent it in future. The town of CHELTENHAM, from its ſituation (which is in a vale, ſurrounded on every ſide with high rugged hills, covered with deep ſands) would, in all probability, have remained unnoticed to the end of time, had not the ſpa attracted the attention of the public. This ſeems to be the general opinion of the inhabitants, if we may judge from the little pains they have taken to decorate or improve themſelves or habitations. They likewiſe ſeem diſpleaſed that chance ſhould ever have brought them to public notice, by their conſtant oppoſition to every improvement, for the convenience and accommodation of thoſe who viſit them. This narrow-minded mode of thinking, we may naturally conclude, leads them on to inſolence and impoſition. Thus emerging as they are from a ſtate of obſcurity, did they poſſeſs the underſtanding of rational creatures, we might expect to ſee attention, aſſiduity, and care, to deſerve the favours of the public: but this ſeems to be diſtant from their ideas; and thoſe whoſe health neceſſarily obliges them

to go there, muſt think themſelves highly indebted to the public ſpirit of Mr. M——r, of London, for the great exertion of his fortune and abilities, to render the place in the leaſt ſufferable. I am, &c.

T. G.

Saturday night,
Sept. 2. 1780.

LETTER II.

MR. EDITOR,

HAVING been out of town for ſome time, I did not immediately get a ſight of the letter ſigned T. G. inſerted in your Paper of Wedneſday the ſixth inſtant.

THOUGH neither a native nor an inhabitant of CHELTENHAM in Glouceſterſhire, yet the common intereſts of truth, and a grateful ſenſe of benefits derived from the water there, oblige me to declare, that T. G.'s aſſertions are not well founded; and I fear he was, like ſome

other modern travellers, neither in good plight of body or temper during his "few days" continuance at the Spa. I could have pardoned the crudity of his remarks, had they been more imbued with the milk of human kindneſs.

As it is, we muſt conſider the indulgence due to every valetudinarian, and wiſh him a better conſtitution. My own taffeta waiſtcoat was not ſo rumpled, after a much longer ſtay there this ſummer; nor did I find that abundance of occaſion of which T. G. complains.

THE Road to CHELTENHAM of late years has been much improved, is daily improving, and from the peculiar felicity of its ſituation, is capable of doing honour to the hand of embelliſhment. The pavement of the town is now, while I write, undergoing a conſiderable alteration, at much expence to the pariſhioners. The lodging-houſes throughout the place are fitted up with all the decency which a reaſonable viſitor would require, at a reaſonable price; and as ſome proof that T. G. can be *ſingularly* acute, he is, I am perſuaded, the only learned and *laconic* writer who hath devoted

his genius to the purpoſe of beſpattering a delightfully-ſeated town, which he is pleaſed to deſcribe as but NOW growing into repute. But, poſſibly, he may be one of thoſe authors, whom Dr. Johnſon dryly opines to have *written* more than they have *read*; for upon a very ſlight inquiry, T. G. might have known that *other learned* writers have mentioned CHELTENHAM with celebrity many years ſince: and it is ſtriking to remark, that the number of faces well known amidſt its various votaries, who from one ſeaſon to another conſtantly recur to the well, is a full teſtimony of their approbation of the place, its water, its lodgings, and its inhabitants.

I HOPE Mr. T. G. will not deem it a preſumption, ſhould I ſuggeſt to a perſon of his great acumen, how ſlowly, for the moſt part, improvement moves in *inland towns*, till the example and public ſpirit of fortunes more ample, and minds better informed, have arouſed them to imitation. It is different in the buſy haunts of a metropolis or a ſea-port town. Brighthelmſtone, for inſtance, a few years ſince

was hardly known, but for its nets and good fiſh. Of late it improves daily, and I heartily wiſh it to improve, becauſe I find that its inhabitants, encouraged by the late great reſort of company, ſeem diſpoſed to expend what they acquire in erecting new buildings, or in making the old ones convenient.———This I grant is exemplary, and I know it has well ſucceeded; but others alſo have judiciouſly acted a ſimilar part, ſo far as they deemed it neceſſary, or ſuitable to their finances.

If the people of CHELTENHAM had made *no* improvements at all, to accommodate their numerous noble and other gueſts, common ſenſe would readily join Mr. T. G. to condemn them. But this, Sir, is not the caſe; and from what has been already done, we may fairly preſage that *much more will be done*.——Self-intereſt, Mr. Editor, we both know is a very ruling principle; and men of diſcernment readily feel its benign influence, even at a diſtant approach. Few ſeaſons, if any, ſince the diſcovery of the Spa, have been ſo highly honoured and crowded as the preſent: the objects of advantage,

vantage, therefore, are become more prominent and palpable to every reſident in CHELTENHAM.

——Sunt oculis ſubjecta fidelibus, et quæ
Ipſe ſibi tradit ſpectator:

And if T. G.'s eyes or ears had been as open as his pen is rapid, they might have enabled him to inform you, Sir, as I do, with equal truth, reſpect and pleaſure, that ſeveral modes of accommodation and real improvement, beſides the beforementioned, are projecting, and ſome of them in forwardneſs.

ONE word more, if you have room,—and I have done.

Mr. T. G. is happy in *levelling* objects at full length: but, as to *commend* is not a willing buſineſs with every *laconic* writer, he has ingeniouſly gutted the name of the truly-worthy and ſpirited Mr. MILLER, who conducts the Well and Rooms; and whoſe character, from general report, is amiably ſuch, that whilſt I am ſure he will not ſeek the flattery of applauſe for himſelf, he wiſhes not to be extolled

or

or contrasted at the expence of his fellow-inhabitants; with whom it may be necessary to inform Mr. T. G. that this gentleman has ever lived upon the most friendly and harmonious terms.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

SUUM CUIQUE.

Teddington, Sept. 12.
1780.

THE END.

Mr Harvard
Gillingham